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Inter-Arab Affairs

Algiers TV Discusses Lebanon with 'Awn, Brahimi

LD2904112190 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 29 April (APS)—The developments of the Lebanese crisis which was complicated these last days by intershi'ite and interchristian clashes seven months after the al-Ta'if agreement, were developed Friday evening at the Algerian television by the emissary of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon and General Michel 'Awn.

The two guests of the program "The Event" which was broadcast in triplex from Algiers, Beirut and Paris, centered their intervention on the al-Ta'if agreement which constituted for the emissary of the Arab league the chance for Lebanon to get out of the crisis and a "failure" for General 'Awn who considers that the agreement did not put an end to the foreign presence in Lebanon which it was supposed to settle. Foreign forces, mainly Syrian and Israeli ones and Iranian and Palestinian armed groups are fighting in Lebanon, he added.

On his turn, Brahimi said that the al-Ta'if agreement is "the result of a national Lebanese consensus"—"it may be bad in the way that its does not satisfy each of the conflicting sides in Lebanon, but it is a minimum agreement which has the advantage to exist" and help in the national reconciliation.

As concerns the legality of the Lebanese state and government, which is refused by some parts, "I repeat as emissary of the Arab League that it is in this frame that I intend to act Brahimi said, adding that "any are who feels concerned by the independence of Lebanon and its dignity must respect this position", which has also been encouraged by the international community, which recognized legality represented by President al-Hirawi and the government of al-Huss. It is worth recalling that this is the first time an Arab television enters the Baabda Palace where General 'Awn is living with 15000 soldiers.

Iranian Desire for Cooperation With GCC Stressed

LD1904205590 Tehran IRNA in English 1914 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Iran's readiness for military cooperation with the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC] was discussed in a meeting between Iranian charge d'affaires in Manama Hoseyn Naraqiyan and Bahraini Minister of Defence Major General Shaykh Khalifa Bin Ahmad al-Khalifa in the Bahraini capital today. Referring to the recent remarks of the Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, Naraqiyan said the Islamic Republic is ready to cooperate with the (P)GCC states and train military personnel of the regional countries.

"Expansion of multilateral relations between the regional countries is a need in the light of the international developments," Naraqiyan stressed.

General Khalifa in response referred to the common interests of the regional countries as "a principle in mutual ties and cooperation." He also called for expansion of Tehran-Manama ties.

Palestinian Affairs

IFLP Claims Attack on Jordanian-Soviet Society

JN2904053890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at the offices of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society in Amman last night. No casualties or damage was reported. The operation was claimed by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in retaliation for the Soviet leadership's plotting against the Palestinian cause and the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine.

This was stated by a spokesman for the Front in a telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE in Amman.

IFLP Denies Attack

JN0105062890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 May 90 Second Edition pp 1, 15

[By 'Isa al-Shubul and Fayruz Mubayyidin]

[Text] Amman—Bahjat al-Talhuni, Senate member and head of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, has denied reports carried by press agencies yesterday stating that a group calling itself "The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine" [IFLP] attempted to blow up the society's premises in Amman.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Talhuni said that the facts pertaining to the issue are that an irresponsible group hurled a Molotov cocktail at the Society's premises without causing any damage. He affirmed that the Society's objectives are social and cultural. He added that the Society has nothing to do with any political trend or decision. Consequently, these useless attempts, which are irresponsible acts that seek to foment fears and undermine Jordanian-Soviet ties, are unjustified, al-Talhuni concluded.

In a related development, an anonymous person who described himself in a telephone call yesterday as a responsible source within the Jerusalem-headquartered IFLP denied that the IFLP had anything to do with the firebomb attack on the premises of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society in Amman the day before yesterday.

The source said that this news report, which was carried by foreign news agencies, is entirely baseless. The source also denied that the IFLP contacted these agencies. The source warned all those who might attempt to harm the IFLP, affirming that it will chase everyone who might entertain the idea of harming Islam, the cause, and the IFLP.

It is to be recalled that no explosions took place and that no fire broke out near the society's premises. However, a bottle containing petroleum was found at the attack site.

'Arafat Interviewed on CSFR Visit, Mideast

AU2304211190 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 17 Apr 90 p 4

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by Tomas Smetanka, in Prague on 13 April: "I Talk to Everyone"]

[Text] [Smetanka] You paid your last visit to Czechoslovakia last year. What is the difference between this visit and the previous one?

['Arafat] I am visiting Czechoslovakia for the first time since the democratic changes have taken place in your country. Our talks with President Havel have been successful, fruitful, and positive. There is no doubt that President Havel, with all the respect and confidence he commands, can play an active role in establishing peace in the Middle East, can stimulate dialogue, and push the negotiations ahead.

[Smetanka] Can you, as Palestinian president, influence the activities of Palestinians in occupied territories and in other countries?

['Arafat] We have the Palestinian National Council, which is our parliament, we have ministries and offices which operate as ministries—the ministries of education, health care, culture, science, economy, refugees' affairs, administrative affairs, foreign affairs—and other state bodies, including the Council of Advanced Education. Through these bodies we are creating links and organizing contacts with the people in the occupied territories and outside these territories. This includes people's unions [lidove svazy] of students, engineers, workers, lawyers, medical doctors, artists, women, farmers, and other popular organizations. These are being joined by all Palestinians living in occupied territories and outside these territories.

[Smetanka] Do you not believe that some Arab officials understand today's European unification process and the changes in Europe as a process aimed against the Third World, against Muslims and Arabs?

['Arafat] Who said that? We respect the choice nations make. The reason for such a standpoint may be seen in the speed with which these countries have renewed ties with Israel. But this is only one aspect of many possible ones. A strong united Europe neighboring the Middle East and Arabs is the Europe we want to have. A friendly Europe. That is why, if you remember, a meeting of European Community ministers and Arab foreign ministers was held in December, chaired by President Mitterrand and King Hassan II. We agreed upon the continuation of these talks. We monitor these relations and historical changes, which must be to the benefit of Europe and from which we, too, and the whole world must benefit. What change in this direction could be bad? These changes follow the right direction, toward a greater European unity and more democracy and freedom. We, Palestinians, are proud of our democracy, of our uprising and fight.

[Smetanka] If the PLO is really a democratic organization, do you not mind being supported from time to time by some undemocratic regimes?

['Arafat] In the interest of a just cause I talk to everyone. I do not talk to them on an ideological basis, I talk to them in the interests of law, human rights, and the political rights of our people. I do not speak in ideological terms.

[Smetanka] The Palestinian state exists only as an idea. What will its borders be should this idea ever come to fruition?

['Arafat] According to international law. We do not want anything more than international law has determined for us.

[Smetanka] What are the state and the prospects of negotiations with Israel?

['Arafat] You know that, unfortunately, there is confusion in the Israeli leadership and at the top of the Israeli Government pyramid. The new Israeli Government has been taking shape for more than a month now.

[Smetanka] In your declaration last year in Paris you mentioned that the Palestinian Charter, which does not recognize Israel, is invalid. Is it not necessary that its invalidity be decided by the Palestinian National Council?

['Arafat] Once a Palestinian state is formed, it will have a constitution. And a state constitution is something other than a PLO constitution.

[Smetanka] Thank you.

'Arafat Talks With Algeria's Bendjedid

LD2104173390 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Brother president, leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, held talks with his brother, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers this afternoon. They dealt with the latest developments in the Arab situation, the work toward holding an urgent emergency Arab summit to discuss the threats facing the Arab nation, in addition to the question of Zionist settlement in the occupied territories and the threat it poses to the Arab nation.

The brother president, leader Abu-'Ammar, arrived in the Algerian capital this morning, accompanied by an important Palestinian delegation.

'Arafat Concludes Mubarak Meeting, Leaves Cairo

NC3004175790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening after a one-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and senior Egytian officials. He was seen off at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani, and a number of Palestinian leading figures.

PLO Delegation Meets With Giap in Hanoi

JN3004200390 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] A Palestinian delegation headed by brother Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee and head of the Economic Affairs and Planning Department, has been visiting the SRV since the day before yesterday at the official invitation of the government to sign the general agreement for economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the State of Palestine and the SRV Government.

Immediately after arrival in Hanoi, the Palestinian delegation met with General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee.

During the meeting, brother Abu-al-'Ala' conveyed to General Vo Nguyen Giap the greetings of brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and also reviewed with him the latest developments in the Palestine question, the dimensions of Jewish immigration, and the threats to which the Arab nation is being exposed. He also stressed the desire of the PLO and the state of Palestine to promote friendly and cooperation relations with the SRV, including economic areas.

Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap reiterated the firm and principled support of the SRV party, government, and people for the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people to exercise their national rights, including the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their Palestinian soil. He also said he was pleased with the delegation's visit as well as the steps to promote the relations between the state of Palestine and the SRV, including the general cooperation agreement which will be signed during the Palestinian delegation's visit.

PLO's Al-Yahya Condemns Decision on Jerusalem

PM0105085290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 90 p 7

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee member and PLO representative in Jordan 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya by Layla Dib in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpt] Amman—PLO Executive Committee member and representative in Jordan 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya has emphasized the need for an urgent Arab summit conference on Jerusalem, Jewish immigration, and peace following the U.S. Congress resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Yahya said: In view of these grave developments I stress the need for an Arab summit conference at the earliest possible date, without any delay or her'tation, immediately after the 'id [26-28 April]. It should be a substantive conference and should be decisive on the questions of Jerusalem, the immigration of Soviet Jews, and peace. Otherwise, U.S. and Israeli recklessness and the cowboy mentality of adventurers who only understand the logic of force and rigidity will continue.

He said that the U.S. House of Representatives decision to regard Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital was a flagrant violation of the principles of international law in general and the UN and Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem in particular. It was, he added, also a serious violation of Palestinian human rights—a reckless and irresponsible interference in these rights—and reflected an irresponsible attitude to peace in the Middle East.

Al-Yahya noted that the decision coincided with the massive Jewish immigration from the Soivet Union to Israel, the Israeli Government's declared plans to settle some of these immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territory, and the seizure of a Christian building in Arab Jerusalem by Jewish settlers with the support and planning of the Israeli Government.

He added that, if anything, this indicates the extent of the U.S. Administration's complicity in this matter and its secret coordination with the Israeli Government. This, he said, strengthens suspicions about U.S. intentions regarding the Palestinian people, their rights, and their sole legitimate representative—the PLO.

He went on: It also exposes the real U.S. position on the Palestinian question and the peace issue. Al-Yahya sounded a warning about the seriousness of the decision. It is, he said, more serious than some people imagine and it is time the Arab states understood that the United States and Israel have begun the decisive process on Jerusalem and the Palestinian question in favor of Israel. He added that they want this process to succeed in any possible way as soon as possible at the expense of the Palestinian people and the entire Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Bal'awi Asks U.S. House To Reverse Decision

JN2804174290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The PLO has warned of the dangers posed by the recent U.S. House of Representatives resolution considering occupied Jerusalem the capital of the Zionist entity. It reaffirmed the firm right of the Palestinian

people to the capital of their independent state, and the indisputable right of the Arab Islamic nation to this holy city as a right endorsed by all international resolutions and charters.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis, said in a statement carried by the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY—WAFA—last night that the PLO insists on the need to ask the U.S. Administration to review this irresponsible and highly dangerous decision, to reverse it, and to stop taking such positions that support the Zionist enemy and violate the rights of our Palestinian people.

The Palestinian official added that this irresponsible decision, which follows a similar resolution by the U.S. Senate—a resolution that some U.S. officials admitted was hasty, wrong, and badly timed—only reflects the House of Representatives' insistence on maintaining its complete bias in favor of the Zionist enemy and serves to support aggressive and expansionist policies. This is in addition to the fact that it is a blatant violation of international law and a violation of several resolutions binding on the United States, which has admitted that the occupied city of Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian territories. The U.S. Administration has always proclaimed and admitted this fact.

'Abd-Rabbuh Asks 'Frontline' Arabs' Support

PM2404170190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Apr 90 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Samir al-Hayari in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hayari] How do you view Jordanian-Palestinian relations under the continuing blessed intifadah, the democratic approach in the country, the disengagement of links [with the West Bank], the clear vision, and the Palestinian peace plan?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Our meeting in Jordan reflects important meanings, first and foremost the fact that through that meeting we are pointing to a new growing and developing relationship between the two sisterly states, Jordan and Palestine. We are also pointing to the new level and nature assumed by that relationship, which is constantly strengthening as a result of several changes and developments which have occurred over the past years.

The historic decision to sever links was in fact in support of the Arab Palestinian people's struggle and valiant intifadah in the occupied territories. It has emphasized at all levels—national and international—that Jordan regards the Palestinian option as the only option available in order to secure a just solution to the conflict in the region.

The decision represented backing for the intifadah and the PLO's role, as it opened the door to a new relationship between Jordan and Palestine—a relationship with a new concept. [passage omitted]

The intifadah's entry into its third year and the achievements it has made at various levels have resulted in open Palestinian-Arab relations based on new foundations, turning the page on negative aspects. It was the intifadah which led us to the Algiers summit resolutions and the Casablanca summit resolutions, which are important not only in terms of their stipulations but also in terms of their concept and the approach they reflect. They stress that the Arab option is the Palestinian option, that is, what the Palestinian people decide via their sole legitimate representative and what the national movement decides is necessarily the option which the Arab nation should adhere to.

That matter was not just subject to disagreement; it was subject to a conflict over many years, for the sake of building the Palestinian-Arab relationship on sound and equal foundations, until the intifadah came to lay the foundations for the future. So the Palestinian-Arab relationship can only be built on an equal basis. ['Abd-Rabbuh ends]

Asked about the quickest and soundest solution, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: Duty prompts us now to meet with the frontline states to form a five-member base comprising Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon on the basis of the resolutions adopted at the Casablanca Arab summit. The aim is to organize international coordination, unite resources to defend Arab summit resolutions, and convene an international conference to combat all the tendencies aiming to hamper the the course of the peace process and circumvent the intifadah for the sake of their own interests.

We must also encourage the Arab popular movement forces to back the intifadah, form a broad Arab front for backing the intifadah, and then form a force to confront any who stand against the intifadah.

The intifadah is the true expression of the democratic spirit among the Palestinian masses. The intifadah has formulated and reformulated Palestinian political thinking. It was the intifadah which inspired the Palestinian peace initiative—our political banner—in order to achieve further victories. There are those among us and in our ranks who see the political initiative as a concession, but it has actually been a weapon in the intifadah's hand, because it is based on the PLO's legitimacy. The intifadah has enabled us to secure the recognition of 107 states. It has also enabled us to secure further world support for the Palestinian people's rights. [passage omitted]

Asked about a solution in the face of Soviet Jewish emigration and the Arab-Palestinian position on it, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The Arab states must shoulder the responsibility. It is a threat not only to Palestine but to the region as a whole. So confronting the United States

and the Soviet Union over the emigration issue is a joint Arab duty. And our Arab homeland has not even performed the minimum of that duty. We are faced with difficulties and numerous battles in various fields, especially with regard to winning over the position of the European states, in which Zionist forces are roaming free with the aim of using them as bases not only for emigration but for political action hostile to the Arabs' and Palestinians' interests as well.

For all these reasons, an urgent Arab summit must be held to discuss the Jewish emigration to Palestine and take joint Arab measures on the issue. That should coincide with an Arab political and economic move jointly with the other forces in order to halt the emigration. We of the PLO have worked with some states like the Soviet Union to prevent the Jewish emigrants' settlement [in the occupied territories]. We have also prevented the Soviet Jews' direct transfer from the Soviet Union to Palestine. And we have made several demands.

So there is Arab responsibility toward the United States—the party most responsible for the Soviet Jews' emigration.

Asked about the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: Our dialogue has not been just a dialogue with a superpower pursuing a policy hostile to our people and their rights. The dialogue was, and still is, a field for struggle against U.S. and Israeli policies, which are very close. U.S. policy has not changed. Its objective at the moment is to pass Shamir's election plan and find outlets for Shamir's plans. Over one year and a few months it has been clear that the Palestinian position conveyed to the United States and emphasized in the declared stances is, and will continue to be, based on the fact that we do not regard the dialogue with the United States a sacred objective. Nor do we regard preserving or caring about the dialogue as an objective which requires that the dialogue be advanced. The dialogue is a field for discussion and struggle with the aim of launching the peace process. But it is not the only field. At the same time the United States as well as the international blocs know our position well, namely that the PLO can only accept the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue if it is regarded as a preparatory step toward the international conference—a dialogue based on equality and international legitimacy under international supervision, and the international conference. And the PLO will not accept any attempts designed to divert that dialogue from its orientations. The PLO cannot accept any moves not aimed at convening the international conference. [passage omitted]

PLF's 'Abbas on Emigration, Jordan Ties

JN2204120390 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 16 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) Secretary General Muhammad 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-'Abbas by Basim Sakkijha in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] [Sakkijha] What do you have to say about the current developments in Israel, and the dimensions of the peace process? For example, do you believe the Cairo meeting will be held?

['Abbas] To judge the currrent developments in Israel is not easy. It is necessary for us to judge these developments from the angle of our basic concepts. I am fully convinced that the Israeli decisionmaking is linked to a large extent to Washington. Washington can directly influence the Israeli leaders. If Washington really wants to facilitate Peres' task for forming a government, it can do so. If it wants to maintain the present political stalemate, it can do this too. I cannot imagine an Israel in the next stage that will be disassociated from the United States. There is no independent Israeli decisonmaking.

Therefore, I am not interested in whether a government will be formed or not. What interests me is to know whether Washington wants peace in the region, or not. We believe it does not want peace. It has opted for the perpetuation of this crisis and for the Israeli control over the fate of the region, and for the continuation of the repression against our people. Anything else are merely maneuvers, and attempts to gain time to further subdue the region, and to fully implement the U.S. scheme. Therefore, it is not important whether Peres, or Shamir forms the government. I do not see that the region is proceeding toward peace at the present time.

[Sakkijha] What about the Cairo meeting—will it be held, and what is your stand if it convenes?

['Abbas] It is still early. It is still too early to differ. I do not expect that a Palestinian-Israeli meeting will be held soon. This is because before speaking about such a meeting, we must discuss the reasons for it, its objectives, and its agenda. Even if such a meeting is held, will it produce the results the people want? The Arab state of affairs does not indicate that solutions will take place in the near future.

Personally, I am against a Palestinian-Israeli meeting because I do not believe that there is a real opportunity to achieve peace.

[Sakkijha] How does Abu-al-'Abbas view the confrontation of Jewish emigration in light of calls by some Palestinians to deal military blows to places where immigrants are located?

['Abbas] The truth is that the Jewish immigration we are currently witnessing infuses new life into Israel. It reformulates the components in favor of Israel's existence. We view it as one of the most serious events over the past 40 years. Israel was established with only 650,000 Jews. Imagine now that is is being consolidated with another million Jews who have received western and eastern education. These Jews are not coming to settle in Israel, but to implement a far more important plan, that of expanding Israel. The fear that these Jews will settle in Nabulus and Hebron is not accurate because these Jews have been brought to reside in other capitals. They have

come to rule from Jerusalem, or in other capitals, in Arab capitals. They have come to share with us the oil—prices and everything else.

The Palestinian is not the only one concerned with this issue. Saying that the Palestinian should strike at the Soviet Jew's presence is not the only solution. It is true that striking at these settlers to make them realize that their lives are in danger, and their lives will not be that easy, is important. However, this is not the only thing.

There is another important matter. I do not distinguish between the new arrivals and those who have been there for a long time. The place where they are residing is also not important. Haifa and Yafo are like Jerusalem and Nabulus. Direct military means are important and required from the Palestinian. But the Arab is also dutybound to participate with other means.

[Sakkijha] Have you seen the American movie the "Achille Lauro"?

['Abbas] Yes. It is all lies. It is obvious that it was produced for sensationalism and distortion. When the young men handed us their weapons, only two bullets were missing while the movie shows that much fighting took place on board the ship.

[Sakkijha] What about your recent visit to Jordan. Within which framework can one place it?

['Abbas] The recent political developments in the region, and specifically the political and social developments in the Jordanian arena are important developments and should be apprised. This is especially since we know that Jordan faces serious threats from the Israeli enemy, not to mention that we have common concerns. There is also the great aspirations that Palestinians and Jordanians share, and the historical partnership which transcends political events. This compels the Arab forces to hold a dialogue to define their stand toward unity. My visit was a very short one. Its purpose was to enable me to become familiar with the current developments there. It has also come as a sign of effective solidarity with Jordan in the face of the Israeli claims concerning the substitute homeland.

[Sakkijha] In your opinion, how should the Palestinian organizations approach the new Jordanian state of affairs in light of the discussions underway within some Palestinian organizations that their branches in Jordan should become Jordanian political parties?

['Abbas] I am against the transformation of the Palestinian organizations into Jordanian parties. I consider this a joke. Of course, there is something unique in the Jordanian-Palestinian relations. There is no difference between a Jordanian and a Palestinian. However, each of them has specific tasks to fulfill. There are Jordanian tasks and there are Palestinian tasks.

As PLF, we consider that our basic task is a Palestinian one. We are of the opinion that we should not replace any national institutions in any Arab country. As national forces, we believe that our role should be to support the Arab national institutions and forces.

In any case, the new experiement in Jordan needs to be discussed in detail. Just imagine that every two or three persons want to form a political party. We have not yet become accustomed to democracy. We might witness the establishment of 100, or 200 parties. I am against the formation of so many parties.

But eventually I believe matters will settle down with two or three main parties with the other small parties on their margin.

[Sakkijha] What about the domestic state of affairs within the PLF?

['Abbas] It is excellent. The problems we faced in 1983 brought about two factions. One lasted and continues its activities, and the other, which is in Syria, also carries the same name. We tried to eliminate this duality but the comrades in Syria did not agree. As for the PLF's internal state of affairs which has been developing since 1983, it continues to shoulder the basic militant tasks.

Faysal al-Husayni Describes Moscow Talks

JN2104175490 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Apr 90 p 23

[By Salam Musafir in Moscow]

[Text] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni has said that some Soviet Jewish personalities whom he met with during the roundtable discussions in Moscow recently had a strange position completely influenced by Israeli propaganda. Those people had never before met any Palestinians, and had never been introduced to the Palestinian viewpoint concerning the Middle East question. He explained that the Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine is considered to be one of the harmful side effects of the perestroyka policy. The Soviets have increasingly begun to realize the dangers of this emigration to the Palestinian people's cause. He clarified that their position is compatible with ours concerning the necessity of setting up a Palestinian state.

The Palestinian struggler adds in a statement to AL-ANBA': Those who had previously met with Palestinian figures had a more realistic and moderate position.

Al-Husayni said: The stands of some of the extremists started to yield slightly. I believe that through repeated meetings we can portray a picture of greater depth and clarity concerning the situation in the region, where the Jews residing in the Soviet Union will understand the nature of the struggle over Palestinian territory and the nature of the role they will be undertaking for themselves if they implement what Israel wants them to do by cornering them all into the mass emigration project. I believe that it is very appropriate that such meetings are repeated and increased without being restricted to Moscow. They should take place in other parts of the Soviet Union. A number of Palestinian figures will be

sent to the Soviet Union every now and then in accordance with a plan to realize this goal.

Answering a question by AL-ANBA' concerning the major trends he diagnosed from the roundtable proceedings organized by the Lebanese newspaper AL-HAYAH published in London, al-Husayni said: I felt that the official Soviet figures reflected a firm stance on the Palestine question and our people's right to self-determination. This was clearly revealed by a remark made by the Soviet Foreign Ministry representative. It was also revealed through the remark by Professor Vasiliyev, deputy chief of the Africa Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, in addition to a number of Soviet journalists, scientists, and researchers taking part in the seminar, including Dr. Aleksandr Smirnov. One of the most biased and fanatic stands was that of the Soviet IZVESTIYA newspaper's commentator, Aleksander Bovin.

He said: I can claim that the Palestinian position now is more in line with the Soviet stand concerning the question of setting up the Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state.

Al-Husayni adds: Concerning the subject of Soviet Jewish emigration, which followed the Soviet Government's decision to open travel opportunities to all citizens, I feel that the Soviet Government is in a tight spot. On the one hand, they cannot close the borders; on the other hand, they have begun to realize more and more the dangers of this emigration on the issue of our Palestinian people. I believe that they are fully aware of the necessity to put greater pressure on Israel to change its policies and use the subject of emigration as a pressure point on Israel so that it will change its policies concerning the Palestine question.

Al-Husayni pointed out in his interview with AL-ANBA' that Zionist propaganda has managed to terrorize the Soviet Jews with the alleged massacres, and has made the level of emigration increase within a condensed and studied plan to which many organs contributed. I sensed this situation through dialogues with moderate and extreme Soviet Jewish figures. This is part of the Zionist activity taking place in the Soviet Union.

Faysal al-Husayni said that through his meetings with the officials in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, he felt that they understood the situation in a clearer way than before. This is what I tried to explain to the Soviet officials: that the great Jewish emigration is dangerous, not only because the Tel Aviv government is working to settle them in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, but that the major danger is that this large-scale emigration will form a pressure factor on the current Israeli society, in that it will push other Jewish groups to opt for settling in the occupied Arab territories. This will happen because of the dense presence of Soviet Jewish emigrants in the Israeli cities and the privileges they get, which will constitute a social and economic pressure factor urging the former Jews to escape from the cities toward the settlements. This occurs with the eastern Jews in particular, and also the Western Jews present in Israel since its establishment and for many years, especially since the Israeli Government is working on providing the best jobs for the newcomers. This also means that the Jews already there will lose their jobs and other work opportunities. Therefore, they will head for the cheaper areas: The settlements are renowned for that.

He said: Therefore, not only do we want to make sure that the Soviet Jews will not be settled in the occupied territories, but also that no emigration to these areas by the other Jews takes place, that is, the internal counter-emigration. This subject was unclear to the majority of the participants in the seminar. I believe that explaining this was a very important point.

Concluding his statement to AL-ANBA', al-Husayni said: I personally believe that the Soviet Union is attempting to find a cure for its situation created by the perestroyka policy through unsuccessful medicines which it believes are successful. However, regrettably, these medicines also have harmful side effects. We the Palestinians have felt the harmful side effects through the issues of emigration and open doors to travel without any restrictions. I also do not believe that the Soviet Union is a partner in an international deal—whose substance is Jewish emigration—without denying that other powers have exploited and benefited from this reality against the interests of the Palestinians and the Soviet Union.

Commentary Views Procrastination on Summit

LD2804225290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the PLO has called for convening of an emergency [Arab summit] to examine the Soviet Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine, and the Israeli threats to sister Iraq. But the response to this call was not good enough in comparison with the extreme importance of this summit. The radio correspondent has supplied us with the following dispatch in connection with this issue:

[Unidentified correspondent] Brothers, the Palestinian official call for convening an Arab summit crowns a long and continuous series of tireless Palestinian moves at this level. It acquired additional strength by being announced officially. It also acquired the immediate Iraqi agreement to hold this summit in Baghdad. However, what is regrettable in fact is some Arab dawdling in positively responding to the Palestinian call for the summit. This call emanates from the Palestinian strong concern to take initiative in facing up to the danger by convening the summit, the necessity of speeding up the agreement on it and convening it [words indistinct] because of its importance, and the scope of this importance which embraces all the Arab countries without any exception.

The truth of the Arab situation is almost the same [in all the Arab countries]. Some countries' allegations concerning some a priori ideas regarding the outcome of this summit can only point to the presence of elements who oppose the convening of this summit which will examine two important issues, as we have said, which are those of Palestine and Iraq.

The Arab summit is not an aim in itself; the real aim is the resolutions that could be adopted during this summit which meets the requirements of averting the danger and of accepting part of the responsibility for defending the fateful pan-Arab issues. Foremost among these are the Palestinian issue and the right of Iraq to develop, reconstruct, and modernize itself. The urgently required Arab summit is a summit which, first and foremost, shoulders the pan-Arab responsibilities and faces up to the pan-Arab dangers. Therefore, the required Arab summit should not limit itself to a conjunctural issue related only to this or that Arab country. It should go beyond all that in order to be able to discuss the Arab destiny in general, make historic decisions, and set up a system to implement and extend these decisions.

It is true that there are many Arab issues which filled the agenda of the previous Arab summits—be they ordinary or emergency ones—and that there are current and temporary Arab issues. However, the Palestinian question, and with it the danger currently threatening Iraq due to Israeli threats and to the Iranian maneuvers concerning the success of peace talks, remains the most important Arab issue. The importance of the Palestinian issue should not be subjected to any questioning, a matter which makes the required summit more special.

It is also true that what makes the required summit more special than the previous ordinary and emergency ones is the fact that this summit is called for at a time when a giant uprising is continuing in the Palestinian land, and at a time when the Palestinian peace attack is progressing. It is called for at a time when there is a courageous Iraqi pan-Arab stance with regard to the repulsion [of the enemy], and the possession of the constituent factors for the repulsion.

All these factors constituted of Palestinian and Iraqi strength are the ones which give the summit all the reasons of its convention and success. The summit called to convene in Baghdad is the fundamental framework which contains the will to secure an integrated and comprehensive act of struggle for the Arab nation. The extent of the strength and clarity of the resolutions of the next summit will consolidate the capacity of Arab supremacy, not only in defending the pan-Arab issues but in drawing the map of the aspired peace in this region.

AL-QADISIYAH Assails Baker Call for Sanctions

JN2904081890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH warns anyone attempting to create the appropriate climate for a Zionist attack on Iraq that such an attack would elicit the enmity of the Arab nation's masses, not only that of the Iraqis. The paper adds that such an attack would kill all hopes for stability in the region.

In its editorial today under the headline "Iraq Will Hold Out Forever Regardless of the Enemies' Arrogance," the paper says: The United States is now making ill-advised efforts to appease the Zionist entity. It seems to have found the best way to achieve this is by harming Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: In some instances, these attempts at appeasement have taken the form of U.S. Congress resolutions recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of "Israel." At other times, the appeasement takes the form of smear campaigns against Iraq. Sometimes, U.S. institutions and agencies, in cooperation with the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation, author and orchestrate theatrical campaigns designed to obstruct Iraq's quest for further technological and scientific advancement.

The paper says: The most recent anti-Iraq attack came in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's call for economic sanctions against Iraq, forgetting and overlooking the fact that Iraq does not receive any U.S. economic or financial aid; nor does it purchase arms from the United States, as do the Zionist entity and other countries. Besides, Iraq has not asked for U.S. assistance in acquiring expertise and technology.

The paper stresses that, in the face of this challenge, Iraq has remained alert, mobilizing all its abilities to show that it will forge ahead along the road of progress and that all the walls with which the Americans are attempting to enclose it are certainly bound to collapse.

AL-QADISIYAH reaffirms that the Americans are deluded if they believe that such tactics will allow them to twist the arms of Iraq and force it to pursue a policy contrary to the legitimate rights of the Arab nation. The paper adds that the Americans' belief that the entire world is now under U.S. tutelage is another delusion plaguing their minds.

The paper concludes by saying that the wise Iraqi leadership under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has, from the outset, shown its strong will and relentless determination to work for changes in the interest of the people's masses. The paper adds that this leadership has succeeded in making drastic political, economic, and social changes go hand in hand, thus forging firm national unity.

Envoy on 'Media Campaign,' UK Pipe Allegations

JN2604161890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Washington, 25 Apr (INA)—Dr. Muhammad al-Mashshat, Iraqi ambassador to the United States, has voiced Iraq's willingness to declare the entire Middle East a zone free of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. At a news conference at the National Press Club today, Wednesday, Dr. al-Mashshat said that this is the official position of Iraq and that the Arabs now want to know Israel's position.

He added that the statements of President Saddam Husayn were a message of peace and a word of advice to Israel that the policy of aggression will not be successful. He said Iraq's position is clear and explicit. It stipulates accepting what the PLO accepts and that Iraq is the last country in the world that wants war.

He said Israel is trying to create justifications for finding a new enemy for the United States after the changes in Eastern Europe. Thus, Israel is seeking to draw attention to the Arabs, particularly Iraq. He attributed Israel's targeting of Iraq to Baghdad's economic importance, and because it has a large, experienced army. He said U.S. propaganda organs reiterated the Israeli allegations against Iraq within a hostile campaign similar to the one launched against Iraq prior to the Israeli attack on it in 1981.

He explained that the installations attacked by Israel had been inspected by the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] and that the latest visit by the IAEA inspectors took place last weak.

Dr. Muhammad al-Mashshat, Iraq's ambassador in Washington, accused the Zionist entity being behind the current campaign against Iraq. He affirmed Iraq's adherence to its call for declaring the region a zone free of all chemical and nuclear weapons. He said it was Israel, along with the U.S. and Western quarters that sympathize with it, that started the recent media campaign against Iraq. He indicated that the recent developments and democratic moves in Eastern Europe have made it no longer necessary for the United States to support Israel to defend its strategic interests. Therefore, Israel tried to find a new enemy for the United States in the region, and it selected Iraq for that.

Referring to what the U.S. press publishes about Iraq's threat to Israel, Dr. al-Mashshat explained that what President Saddam Husayn declared was a word of advice to Israel to stop its aggressive acts and to make it clear to it that if it attacks Iraq, it will not escape punishment as it did in 1981, when it attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The Iraqi ambassador expressed Iraq's willingness to cooperate in declaring the entire region free of all chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons.

Dr. al-Mashshat denied Iraq's purported intention to build the largest gun in the world after the clamor fabricated by the British authorities alleging that it

discovered huge pipes bound for Baghdad. He said: I feel sorry for the British authorities, because they were embarrassed after this issue. These pipes are designed for petrochemical industries by a British company in accordance with the international standards set for such industries. We have received 44 pipes from the same company, which has all the documents that support this.

Dr. al-Mashshat indicated that the British Government has so far failed to declare its official position on this issue. He described what has happened as nothing more than a campaign to defame Iraq, especially since Iraq does not need such a gun, because it has effective missiles.

He warned that imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq by the U.S. Government will affect the relations between the two countries and will be unfair to Iraq. He said that any decision of this kind will affect U.S. interests more than Iraq itself.

Dr. al-Mashshat welcomed any U.S. and Western contacts with his country and said that Iraq has for the first time opened the door to foreign companies to develop the Iraqi oil industry on the condition that this takes place at oil wells that have already been discovered.

Dr. al-Mashshat urged the United States to punish those responsible for the abductions instead of rewarding them, indicating that Syria was responsible for Iran's entry into Lebanon.

He described the Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran as hostages and called anew on Iran to exchange the prisoners of war.

He declared that the U.S. House of Representatives resolution considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel is an illegal declaration and that the U.S. House cannot decide the issue of a territory that is not part of the United States. He said that Jerusalem is a city in which Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are practiced and that such a declaration will strengthen the position of the extremists in Israel and obstruct peace efforts.

Official on 'Readiness' for Direct Talks With Iran

JN2604170990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, 26 Apr (INA)—Iraq today renewed its readiness for direct negotiations with Iran anytime the UN secretary general deems proper.

This was disclosed here today by Wisam al-Zahawi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, following a meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Al-Zahawi said that he informed Perez de Cuellar of Iraq's position on behalf of Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Speaking to representatives of Arab news agencies accredited to the United Nations, al-Zahawi noted that he is prepared to meet the UN secretary general once again during his presence at the United Nations if Mr. Perez de Cuellar wishes to meet him after the secretary general's meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday [as received].

The Foreign Ministry under secretary said that Iraq emphasizes the need to implement the 8 August 1988 agreement, which was the basis of the cease-fire and was aimed at reaching a common understanding of all the provisions of Resolution No. 598.

He voiced the hope that the upcoming round of negotiations will be a new opportunity for direct negotiations to reach a common understanding in accordance with the 8 August agreement.

Al-Zahawi pointed out that the issue of the prisoners of war was supposed to have been resolved a long time ago, because it is not connected with any other clause of Resolution 598, but is dealt with in accordance with the 1949 Third Geneva Convention.

Al-Zahawi added that the POW issue is characterized by urgency in addition to being a humanitarian issue, adding that he emphasized to the secretary general the need to realize progress in the POW exchange.

Al-Zahawi said that the secretary general agrees with this position and says that the POW issue is a humanitarian one and that he has raised the subject with the Iranians several times.

Al-Zahawi noted that Iran is detaining thousands of Iraqis as hostages to use them for political blackmail at a time when a large- scale campaign is being launched for the sake of a few hostages detained here or there.

Al-Zahawi added that as of now, Iran's conduct does not show a willingness or desire to reach a common understanding, or even a wish to consider Resolution 598 as a peace plan.

Pazner Sees No 'Serious Problem' in Relations

TA0105111590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser Avi Pazner does not believe the statements made recently constitute a serious problem for long-standing relations between Israel and the United States. In an interview with our reporter Jack Katzenell, Pazner said the prime minister made it clear that once a new government is formed, ways will be sought to see how the two countries can promote the peace initiative.

[Begin recording] [Pazner] A positive answer to Baker is not the only way to make progress in the search for peace. There may be other ways, and therefore a very close dialogue between us and the United States will be needed. We are very appreciative, I must say, of the help which has been given to us by the United States in the search for peace, which does not necessarily mean that we can agree to each and every proposal that was made. I do not think that we are expected to agree to each and every proposal, but we certainly will be ready to engage in a very close dialogue with the United States in the best tradition of the good and friendly relationship between Israel and the United States. I am convinced that the moment we have a stable government in Israel—which will open the dialogue with the United States, as I told you—we can settle all those passing small differences, and we can get to an understanding how Israel and the United States together can proceed hand in hand like they used to all those years.

[Katzenell] Is it fair to say that this new government will reject the decision of the Inner Cabinet which agreed to go to the Cairo talks?

[Pazner] If you check carefully what the prime minister said, he said there may be other ways. He did not say that he is not going to Cairo. He just said what he always says: There is more than one way to go to peace. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT on 1 May carries a recorded interview with Minister Without Portfolio David Magen by political correspondent Natan Gutman after the weekly Cabinet meeting. Asked whether he and the Likud in general are concerned about the U.S. reaction to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks on the Baker plan, Magen replies: "I propose waiting for the official contacts between the two countries via the customary channels. I believe the issue has been blown up above and beyond what the State Department really said. I personally am going to meet with a senior visiting State Department official in a good atmosphere. There is no atmosphere of controversy. Differences appear from time to time, and we should not exaggerate them, even when misunderstandings exist."]

Shomron on Iraqi Threat, Prisoner Exchange

TA2904200590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky "during Brigadier General Shomron's visit to the Golan Heights"; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Shlonsky] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] intelligence evaluations refer to a small danger that war might break out in the coming year, but the noises emanating from Iraq call for second thoughts about the possibility that an eastern front might be established against us. A youthful Armored Corps company held an exercise this week on the Golan Heights; a routine exercise on the plateau which the Syrians could watch. The chief of staff arrived here on the Golan Heights to watch the exercise, but all eyes were directed further east to Baghdad.

We are standing near the point where the borders of Syria, Jordan, and Israel meet, the location which, perhaps more than anything else, points to the option of an eastern front. Do you see any chances of an eastern front—Iraq and Syria growing closer, for instance, not to talk of Jordan entering the fray?

[Shomron] First, there is already military cooperation between Iraq and Jordan, and there are a lot of efforts at mediation going on between Iraq and Syria. It is very difficult to forecast just how such trends will develop and where they will lead. I would say that the initial steps for such cooperation have taken place, and we must certainly watch closely whether an eastern front is developing or not.

[Shlonsky] Why are we so concerned about the Iraqis? What the Iraqi president is saying is that if Israel attacks vital targets inside Iraq he would respond with all the means at his disposal. That is almost legitimate.

[Shomron] He is saying more than that. He views himself as the protector of the Arab nation. He says that the strategic arms in his possession are also aimed at protecting any endangered Arab country. That approach, as well as his pretensions of being leader of the Arab nation, contain a certain danger. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] Routine security here and on the Lebanese border has become the IDF's main burden in the past year.

[Shomron] In the past year, there was a very significant increase in attempted infiltrations from across the Jordanian border with the aim of carrying out attacks. That is mainly because of events in the territories. There are [Jordanian] soldiers of Palestinian descent who have relatives here, watch television and hear news, and sometimes want to join [the intifadah]. I would however like to add that the IDF is succeeding very well in protecting all borders—with Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, as well as the coastline. I would like to say that

such a situation is not inevitable, it calls for an enormous effort by officers and men from general to private. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] Do you view the way the intifadah has been dealt with as a failure by the IDF and you personally, or not as a failure at all, but rather a success?

[Shomron] I believe that in the future when people look back they will acknowledge the Army's outstanding activity within such a complex field—it is not exactly a military field—which is the focus of the state of Israel's political debate. I have studied the history of other democratic countries which faced similar situations and in my view the Army is succeeding at performing a very sensitive balance in its activities in the face of civilians. The truth is that the majority of the population in the territories does not actively participate in the uprising.

[Shlonsky] Yes, but the intifadah continues.

[Shomron] As long as the people in the territories have such motivation, the intifadah will continue on some level. The question is whether the state of Israel must, in view of that situation, give up vital interests or whether, in view of the Army's responses, Israel will not have to capitulate and can take a decision based on its needs and security interests. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] In the past week, there have been rumors of a prisoner exchange. The chief of staff firmly denies talk about a prisoner exchange any time soon.

[Shomron] We hear openly about people busy over a prisoner exchange. The state of Israel's policy for years has been that we are prepared to exchange prisoners. There is currently no concrete proposal for a prisoner exchange. I would, on this occasion, like to say that we do not for a single moment forget the POW's and MIA's and will make every effort to see that they come back home to their families and us. I would like to take this opportunity to tell their families that they should know that we are constantly continuing our efforts through all avenues to bring them back home. [passage omitted]

Defense Director General 'Irvi Discusses Issues

TA2904091090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Independence Day supplement) in Hebrew 29 Apr 90 pp 3-5

[Interview with David 'Ivri, Defense Ministry director general, by Ron Ben-Yishay in 'Ivri's office; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ben-Yishay] David 'Ivri, you are in charge of the Defense Ministry's foreign relations and strategic cooperation with the United States. The incumbent U.S. Administration is not the most sympathetic, and there has been talk of cutting aid to Israel. Do you think this will happen anytime soon?

['Ivri] I tell them that from the security-strategic point of view this is not the right time to slash aid to Israel. We are not in the same boat as Europe. Yet I do know that the demand to reduce aid to Israel does not stem from less support for us, but from their own needs and pressures.

[Ben-Yishay] If U.S. aid to Israel is only cut back somewhat, let us say by 10 to 15 percent, how severe will the blow be?

['Ivri] I believe this would be a very severe blow. Most of our contracts commit us for a number of years, but there still remains a margin of 10 or 15 percent of the U.S. aid budget which we can utilize freely to purchase items we need immediately. If such a cut is effected, we will only be able to pay for previous deals, nothing more. The implication will be less work for Israeli industry because part of the U.S. aid is converted into shekels for purchases in Israel. There will again be layoffs and the same painful phenomena that the industry has experienced in the past few years.

[Ben-Yishay] People talk about strategic cooperation with the United States. What does it involve, apart from biannual delegation meetings?

['Ivri] We pledged not to talk about this cooperation in public. That is why it is successful. The meaning of strategic cooperation is first of all the establishment of a well-oiled machine for cooperation which is at the political echelons' disposal. They only have to reach a decision, and the implementation will be swift and smooth. This requires that exercises be held, procedures be drawn up, and prior coordination be maintained. The dialogue itself, however, leads to an exchange of views on all sorts of things, including situation analyses and assessments of what is happening in the Middle East.

[Ben-Yishay] Including the Iraqi situation?

['Ivri] Definitely, and also about European issues. Each side reports to the other about its concerns. That results in less surprises among the partners. There is more of a personal commitment between the sides not to surprise each other, or not to carry out things that have not been coordinated in advance, or things that run counter to policy.

[Ben-Yishay] Does the thaw in relations between the two blocs not weaken Israel's status as a U.S. strategic asset?

['Ivri] Anyone who wants to question its importance will use this pretext. Those who do not will find sufficient reasons not to doubt the claim. The Americans know that it is just as important to be prepared for "back-burner conflicts" as for a world war. The cooperation with the United States is not meant for a global war; it was intended for these minor, local conflicts.

If the United States wants to be involved anywhere in the region, it will be easier for it if it has a foothold or support in our area.

[Ben-Yishay] What is your opinion of the latest disclosures about Iraq's growing strength and that of other Arab countries surrounding us? Do you think they require a different approach from our standpoint in

terms of building up our strength, or perhaps by giving emphasis to preparing the rearguard or training in bombardment countermeasures?

['Ivri] I believe the General Staff Command is handling the issue and contending with it. I am not sure enough attention was devoted to the issue five or seven years ago, but today certainly all the requisite attention is given to the Iraqi issue as a whole, and the surface-to-surface missile and chemical weapon issue in particular.

[Ben-Yishay] What changes do you see in Israel's current strategic situation compared to two years ago, namely at the end of the Iran-Iraq war?

['Ivri] The strategic situation is such that from the international point of view, economics gains supremacy over security in the western and eastern worlds alike. I think this will be the trend among Israeli economists as well.

In certain respects, Israel's predicament is tougher now because of the surface-to-surface missiles and the chemical weapons. The question is whether we can, as a state and a nation, handle the challenge and contend with it. My belief is that we cannot, neither politically-strategically nor as an army.

Supposing someone should analyze the situation and tell us that surface-to-surface missiles are not very accurate and that statistical data indicates that if you get an early warning you suffer less casualties. The problem is not whether 100 or 200 residents of Tel Aviv are hurt; the question is what happens later. Supposing our reaction is a success and everything ends with the other side suffering heavy losses. The question is how the Jews in Israel will deal with the actual attack and its outcome—even if it is limited. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Yishay] You are currently director general of a Defense Ministry having only an acting defense minister. In other words, there is no full-time minister. Have the ministry's operations been affected?

['Ivri] I feel that I have no problems. Whenever I need to obtain approval or to consult with someone, the prime minister—the minister in charge—will summon me immediately. I believe that he gives priority to security. There has not been a case in which I expressed the desire to update him or receive approval for something, but was denied an immediate meeting or the time necessary for it.

[Ben-Yishay] Even at the height of the political struggle that is now being waged?

['Ivri] I conferred with him at least twice a week over the past few weeks. The question is whether I can condense all the issues I would normally bring before a full-time minister and raise them in one encounter. Sometimes I tell myself: Wait a minute, maybe it would be advisable to wait a while for a decision because the present situation is only temporary. I should bring it before the next minister or the prime minister only when it is absolutely necessary to make a decision, and then tell him: Listen, now it is absolutely imperative that a decision be made.

[Ben-Yishay] Have there been cases where you made the decisions by yourself owing to the present situation?

['Ivri] I made a lot of decisions within my jurisdiction even when there was a minister. I will try to do the same in the future as well because I think that it is the director general's job to make decisions and not rush to the minister every day with requests for decisions and approvals. The director general must obtain the minister's nodding approval from time to time, an acknowledgement that he is going in the right direction. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Yishay] What have you done in this sphere recently?

['Ivri] There are ties with certain countries that warrant constant pulse checking and require a reaction to changing circumstances. As long as I operate within the framework of the prevailing policy according to which we approve military exports or the transfer of military technology, everything is fine. But changes are occurring in the world; they have been happening over the past few weeks in East Europe and elsewhere.

[Ben-Yishay] Do you determine your policy according to the specific country involved?

['Ivri] According to the country in question and the technology we want to export.

[Ben-Yishay] Can you give me an example?

['Ivri] A simple example: the United States. There are no limitations in terms of military exports, but there may be a certain defense system which we want to keep as a surprise. In that case, we would not offer it even to the United States. This would be a system classified as "super top secret."

[Ben-Yishay] What was the overall scope of the military industries' exports for last year?

['Ivri] We do not have all of the data for 1989 but in general it was around $1.5 billion in real sales, namely where we got cash for the goods. We have contracts for an additional $1.6 billion. On the average, we have orders for exports for approximately two or three years. [passage omitted]

Settlers Evacuate Hospice Site in Jerusalem

TA0105094790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The settlers in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem have complied with the decision of the High Court of Justice, leaving only 20 members of the Panamanian company on the premises as the court had instructed. The remaining 130 settlers who occupied the building left it over the weekend.

The police were not forced to intervene in the evacuation process. When the settlers informed the many journalists who arrived at the place of their plans, a group representing the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate asked to enter the building to make sure that the evacuation had indeed been completed. The settlers' representatives, led by Attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhaq, said that any entry into or visit to the place must be coordinated with the court in accordance with the processes determined by law. They therefore forbade the patriarchate delegation to enter. The entire process passed quietly.

Disputes With Norway Over Heavy Water Settled

TA3004135590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Israel and Norway have settled all their disputes over the heavy water it sold Israel many years ago. The last suspicion, that Israel had received Norwegian heavy water via Romania, has now also been lifted. Our correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi reports that Oslo had suspected President Ceausescu of selling Israel 12.5 tons of heavy water he had bought in Norway four years ago. The Norwegians now believe that the water was sent to India and is being used there in the making of nuclear arms. It was earlier reported that Israel would return to Norway half of the heavy water it bought from that country and that the Norwegians called off their demand to inspect the Dimona nuclear reactor.

Relations With Nicaragua To Resume 'Shortly'

TA2904111190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens this morning received an announcement that Nicaragua will shortly resume diplomatic ties with Israel. The resumption was announced by Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry David Turgeman [title and name as heard] who was invited to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Violeta de Chamorro. After the ceremony Turgeman met with the president, her deputy, and the foreign minister, and the resumption of ties was decided about.

Relations between Israel and Nicaragua were broken off by the Sandinista regime because of the war in Lebanon.

Havel Delivers 'Arafat Message, Agrees to Flights

TA2704164590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Czechoslovak President Vaclev Havel said, upon conclusion of his trip to Israel, that he would be willing to negotiate an agreement with Israel by which Czechoslovakia would serve as a transit station for Soviet immigrants. He added, however, that he would welcome a political commitment from Israel, or at least the expressed hope that these immigrants would not settle in the territories.

During a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, Havel stated the CSFR would be prepared to resume direct flights between the two countries. Addressing the political situation, he noted he had received the impression the Baker plan could constitute a basis for resolving the Middle East conflict. *He said he had delivered a message* in the wake of his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, according to which the PLO leader would be ready to launch negotiations on the basis of the Baker plan. He claimed he had conveyed the message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, but had not been asked to deliver any reply to 'Arafat.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 27 April reports "President Hayim Herzog will make a state visit to Prague. CSFR President Havel has invited the president for a reciprocative visit to his country."]

Discussions Reportedly Underway on Hostages

TA0105090790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 May 90 p A5

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] Under the auspices of a senior French Government official, two Israeli Government messengers have recently discussed with an Arab mediator the possibility of including the three kidnapped IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the framework of "closing the case of foreign hostages in Lebanon." This was reported by the Beirut weekly AL-AFKAR [name as published], which is close to Muslim circles in Lebanon.

AL-AFKAR also claims that the Arab personality assured the two Israeli messengers that Israeli navigator Ron Arad, who is being held by a Muslim Shiite organization which seceded from Amal, is alive. The Arab figure demanded the release of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, the south Lebanese Hizballah leader, as well as 300 other Lebanese Shiites being held in the al-Khiyam prison in the security zone. The two Israeli messengers promised to continue the contacts. The Beirut weekly also said that the Arab figure has been authorized to mediate between Iran and Hizballah on one hand and the United States, Britain, and Israel on the other about the release of all the hostages. [passage omitted]

Avraham Tamir Forms New Jewish-Arab Party

TA0105101390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 May 90 p 2

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] Major General (reserves) Avraham Tamir, the former director general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry and one of those associated with the peace with Egypt from its beginning, is setting up a new Jewish-Arab party to be called the Movement for True Peace [Hatnu'ah Leshalom].

According to him, this will be a "popular movement" that will act for peace between Israel and the Arab states

and for full equal rights for Israeli Arabs. He himself has promised not to run for the Knesset.

Rabbi Given Five-Month Sentence for Killing Arab

TA0105122890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] A Jerusalem District Court judge imposed a five-month prison term and a seven-month suspended sentence on Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a Gush Emunim leader, for causing the death of an Arab merchant in Hebron. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that Levinger was originally charged with manslaughter, for which the punishment is up to 20 years in jail, but in a plea bargaining agreement between the state attorney and the defendant, the charge was changed to negligent manslaughter.

District Court Judge Shalom Brenner said in handing down judgment that Levinger fired and killed the merchant, although at the time of the shooting there was no disturbance in the area and his life was not endangered from the direction in which he fired. The judge also said that the shooting was uncontrolled and that Rabbi Levinger acted hastily.

AL-QUDS Links Hostage Issue, Peace Process

TA2604144390 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Apr 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The Hostages"]

[Text] The release of the U.S. hostage, accompanied by an endless and dramatic media campaign, clearly reflects the attempts by all the countries involved in this multifaceted and complicated problem to exploit as much as possible the hostage issue.

The entire world is aware that certain pro-Iranian Lebanese groups embarked on kidnapping American and European figures working in Lebanon at a time when Iranian relations with the Arab world were deteriorating. Currently, Iran is attempting to open a new page in relations with the West. Tehran has decided to open the hostages file, as well as the doors, closed on them for many months.

The kidnapping of a journalist, a clergyman, a university professor, a Red Cross employee, and so forth is an unacceptable act denounced by religious teachings and international mores, charters, and laws. The attempt to mix such things with politics serves only the interests of those who stand in the trench opposite the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Surprisingly, the international news media is following up the episode of the hostages' release as though it were the main event in the Middle East region, bearing in mind that the continued seizure of the peace process is the real cause of all the region's problems.

We are not trying to downplay the humanitarian and moral significance of the hostages' release. As we have stated, an end must be put to the hostage-taking phenomenon. It should not be resorted to because this phenomenon harms Islam and the Arabs, in addition to the great damage it inflicts on the hostages' families, friends, and work.

The issue of seizing hostages is a mere phenomenon of many peculiar phenomena in the Middle East, most of which stem from the inability to establish peace in the region according to international principles and legitimacy.

Many countries, including the superpowers, have tried to help launch the peace process in the region, but all these efforts have collided with the impediments and obstacles of intransigence, as well as with attempts to impose a fait accompli and a policy of reducing the rights of others, so much so that peace has become a hostage to these obstacles. We believe launching the peace process is the most important step on the road to laying the foundations of a Middle East region in which security, peace, and stability prevail.

King Meets With Members of Leftist Parties

JN2604132790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 April 90 p 1

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

Amman—His Majesty King Husayn Tuesday [24 April] night met with leaders of the self-styled Jordanian People's Democratic Party (JPDP) in the first such encounter in 16 years, according to sources in the party, which hopes to gain legal recognition as and when the necessary legislation is enacted on the basis on guidelines to be outlined in the proposed national charter. [sentence as published]

Jordan's democratisation process, Arab-Israeli peace efforts, the threats inherent in the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were the focus of the two-and-a-half-hour talks the King held with the eight-member party delegation, the sources said.

The King's meeting with JPDP members followed a similar audience with officials of the Palestinian Communist Party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The King is also expected to meet with representatives of the Jordanian wing of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine sometime soon, sources said.

The meetings at the Royal Palace with representatives of formerly banned parties reflect the democratic era in Jordan. One representative of each of the parties is included in the 60-member Royal Commission charged with drafting the national charter.

During Tuesday night's meeting, "We discussed the role of labour and professional unions in the make-up of political forces in the country, the role of political parties, the role of the press and the abolition of martial law," said Hani Hurani, a member of the party delegation.

Another issue discussed was the release of prisoners serving sentences for politically-related security crimes, said another member of the delegation. "His Majesty showed a lot of concern over the issue of the prisoners," said the party official, who said 32 people affiliated with the JPDP were among the prisoners.

"The King gave us his assurance that there was no going back on the democratisation of Jordan," according to Hurani. "The King stressed that he would look into the release of any remaining political prisoners and a conference which will review means to resolve the economic ills of the Kingdom," he said.

Apart from Hurani, the others attending Tuesday night's meeting were: "Salim al-Nahhas, Bassam Haddadin (a member of the Lower House of Parliament), Samih Khalil, 'Abla Abu-al-'Ula, Majidah al-Masri, Ahmad Yusuf and 'Ali 'Amir—all members of the political council of the party.

Kuwaiti Loan To Finance Tourism, Industry

JN0105082290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 May 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Jordan is to get a loan of five million Kuwaiti dinars (KD) to help finance industrial schemes and tourism projects carried out by the private sector in the Kingdom, according to an agreement signed in Amman Monday by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

The KD5 million (JD10.25 million) loan at 3.5 per cent interest rate repayable over 17 years with a five year grace period will be settled through 24, 6-month instalments beginning July 1, 1995 and ending January 1, 2007, according to the terms of the agreement.

The loan carries an extra 0.5 per cent interest to cover management cost.

The loan, to be channelled through the IDB with the Jordanian government serving as guarantor, will finance projects conducted by the private sector between 1990 and 1993, according to the loan agreement which was earlier approved by the council of ministers.

A statement following the signing ceremony said the loans would encourage investments in the industrial sector and in tourism projects in Jordan.

The statement estimated the overall investments in industry and tourism over the coming four years to reach KD28.2 million with 18 per cent of the amount provided by KFAED.

The KFAED had so far provided Jordan with 24 soft loans for development schemes together worth KD124.6 million. The loans benefitted schemes in agriculture, energy, irrigation, industry, mining, tourism and road construction.

The loan agreement Monday was signed by Minister of Planning 'Awni al-Masri, IDB Director Tahir Kan'an and KFAED Director General Badr al-Humaydi in the presence of senior officials from all concerned parties.

Editorial Deplores U.S. 'Blackmail' of WHO

JN2904091290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 90 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "A New U.S. Blackmail"]

[Text] The United States is still pursuing its extortionist policy throughout the world to impose its views and conditions on world organizations, especially humanitarian organizations, in order to dominate the scene. Perhaps the most egregious of these extortionist methods was the recent U.S. Administration decision to halt U.S. support if the WHO were to admit the PLO as a member. This constitutes an attack on the WHO that would paralyze it.

This policy of extortion in U.S. foreign policy toward countries of the world, especially Third World countries—who are beginning to sense that their quest for development and independent policies is being shackled—is not new. Similar to its blackmail of the WHO, the United States adopted the same method previously with regard to UNESCO, by interfering in UNESCO's affairs and programs, the election of its president, and its general policies. The PLO has accepted all the conditions for a peace that can lead to a just settlement in the Middle East by approving UN resolutions, renouncing terrorism, and proposing peaceful initiatives. The U.S. position, in contrast, indicates once more the lack of desire to promote any peace opportunity in the Middle East. Moreover, it unequivocally demonstrates continued U.S. bias in favor of aggressive Israeli policies and conduct that have been condemned and opposed throughout the world.

The new U.S. position once more turns a blind eye to Arab interests and represents a provocation and a challenge to these interests and what they ultimately stand for. This, therefore, should prompt the Arabs to put forward a strong alternative to these policies through unifying their positions and trying to create an alternative to the WHO and other world organizations in order to break the U.S. decisionmaking monopoly and put an end to U.S. supremacy and arrogance. For example, Arab funds in the world's banks, especially U.S. banks, have weight in international decisions. The Arabs can use their financial influence in these world organizations—which comes from their contributions to them—to put an end to the blackmail the United States uses to influence countries of the world and to force them, and the organizations they deal with, to adopt hostile positions on major Arab issues, particularly the Palestine question.

Why don't the Arabs allocate funds equal to U.S. contributions to help these organizations and free them from hegemony and blackmail? If that happened, would the United States resort to the same methods again?

U.S. Hostage Frank Reed Released

Further on Islamic Dawn Communique

NC2904213490 Paris AFP in English 2128 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 29 (AFP)—A previously unknown group late Sunday announced that in the next 48 hours it would free U.S. hostage Frank Reed, a 57-year-old school director who has been in captivity for the past 43 months.

The Islamic Dawn Organization, in a communique to the West Beirut newspaper AL-NAHAR, confirmed an earlier announcement—also sent to AL-NAHAR—that Mr. Reed would be released.

The initial statement, although accompanied by a color photograph of the U.S. hostage, was unsigned.

"We want to stress that the first communique was from us and did not carry the signature of the Arab Revolutionary Cells-Force 'Umar al-Mukhtar," the statement said, referring to the group that had claimed Mr. Reed's September 9, 1986 kidnapping in West Beirut.

The second statement arrived at AL-NAHAR with a black and white photograph showing Mr. Reed, director of the Lebanese International School, bearded and in a white T-shirt.

It repeated its decision to "release the American hostage Frank Reed in the next 48 hours" and said he would be carrying "a message for the American administration." [passage omitted]

In calling themselves the Islamic Dawn Organization the kidnappers of Mr. Reed have chosen a name very close to that of a pro-Iranian underground group operating in Iraq.

The Iraqi group, loyal to Iran and fiercely opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in 1986 declared its links to Islamic Jihad, the oldest and best-known of the Lebanese groups holding Western hostages. [passage omitted]

Until Sunday the kidnapping of Mr. Reed had never been convincingly claimed.

Immediately after his abduction in 1986 an anonymous telephone caller purporting to speak for the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad said the group was holding Mr. Reed.

But Islamic Jihad on September 12, 1986 denied any involvement, noting that its internal operating procedures required that all claims be substantiated by a photograph of one of the hostages.

One day later an unidentified caller saying he represented the Arab Revolutionary Cells-Force 'Umar al-Mukhtar claimed responsibility for the abduction.

But the call was not followed up by a photograph of Mr. Reed.

Initial press reports on Sunday suggested that the Arab Revolutionary Cells had sent the first communique, prompting a warning to journalists from the Islamic Dawn Organization to "take care and to be precise in their reports.

"Otherwise we'll seek them out and punish them severely," the statement said.

'Stringent Security Measures'

NC3004185490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1850 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] U.S. hostage Frank Reed, who was released in West Beirut at 1930 today, is now heading toward Damascus amid stringent security measures. REUTER cited a ranking Syrian official as saying that Reed was handed over to the Syrian forces in Beirut and that he is now heading toward Syria. The Syrian official added that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will hand over the U.S. hostage to the U.S. ambassador in Damascus later tonight.

Reed Arrives in Damascus

NC3004195390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] After being released at 1930 this evening, U.S. hostage Frank Reed arrived in Damascus at 2100. U.S. Ambassador to Syria Edward Djerejian will receive the hostage at the Syrian Foreign Ministry where a large number of foreign and Arab journalists are waiting. AFP cited eyewitnesses as saying that three large cars belonging to the Syrian intelligence service were seen traveling fast along the international highway between Beirut and Damascus this evening.

Reed To Rest Before Exchange

NC3004211190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Quoting Syrian officials, REUTER reported tonight that freed U.S. hostage Frank Reed will spend some time resting in a government guest house in Damascus before Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' hands him over to U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian later tonight.

U.S. diplomats in the Syrian capital said that a specially equipped plane carrying medical equipment will arrive in Syria shortly to transport Reed to Wiesbaden in West Germany where he will answer questions by a special U.S. State Department team on hostages. [passage omitted]

The TEHRAN TIMES said the ball is now in Washington's court, adding that the United States must make a goodwill gesture. The Iranian paper said Iran received a promise that Reed would be freed after intensive negotiations with his kidnappers, adding that the other side must give something in return.

Captors Release U.S. Hostage Frank Reed

TV Announcement

JN3004202890 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2018 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] U.S. hostage Frank Reed was released this evening and he will be handed over to the U.S. ambassador in Damascus later.

Baker's Thanks Reported

JN3004204990 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2014 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the United States and President George Bush for the efforts exerted by Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad to obtain the release of U.S. hostage Frank Reed. This came in a telephone conversation Mr. Baker held today with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Praise for Syrian Role Cited

JN0105050590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last night handed U.S. hostage Frank Reed over to U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian. Reed was released in Beirut yesterday, Monday.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed his happiness that another hostage was released—Mr. Reed, who is among us now and is enjoying good health. The minister also expressed the hope that this second gesture of goodwill would be met by another in the release of the remaining hostages.

In a press statement, Reed expressed thanks to Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad for the role it played in releasing him.

U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian expressed his government's high appreciation for the Syrian Government's efforts in releasing Mr. Reed. He also expressed his government's thanks for President Hafiz al-Asad, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Syrian officials for Syria's effective role in securing the release of U.S. hostage Reed. The U.S. ambassador added: The Syrian officials have informed us that they have worked closely with the Iranian officials on this issue. We view this as an encouraging sign.

Columnist on U.S. Responsibilities

JN0105063890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "Behind the News" column under the headline "Syria's Credibility and the Stands of Others," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Following the release of the new U.S. hostage Frank Reed, Syria's week long efforts yielded fruit to contribute to creating an atmosphere that would prove the credibility and comprehensiveness of the humanitarian views of its leader Hafiz al-Asad. Syria has proved its credibility in this regard, whether in exerting extensive efforts to release hostages or in creating appropriate atmospheres to begin the march of removing the causes that led to this problem. These efforts took a long time. However, they have always clashed with the intransigent stands of the Zionist enemy, whose terrorism has become the focal point of its official policy, and with the U.S. positions that support this terrorism. These stands are in line with U.S. interests and do not take into consideration any support for justice and peace in the world.

Syria's efforts, which led to the release of hostage Reed, prove that Syria's stands are not based on intransigent reactions, but on firm and principled policy. Still, the U.S. Administration should rise to the level of responsibility and adopt balanced positions that serve the issue of peace in the world and contribute to the elimination of hotbeds of tension in the Middle East.

President Al-Asad Pays Official Visit to Moscow

Soviet Envoy Previews Talks

JN2904172590 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Apr 90 p 7

[Excerpt] Moscow, AL-ITTIHAD—Soviet Ambassador to Syria Aleksandr Zotov has said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's talks in Moscow will mainly focus on steps to achieve peace in the Middle East, and that the two leaders will also discuss the Soviet Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine.

At a press conference the day before yesterday, Zotov said that the Syrian president would discuss with Soviet President Gorbachev the promotion of cooperation between the two countries. For its part, PRAVDA ruled out a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Zotov added that the visit, which was postponed several times for "certain reasons," would deal with a number of Arab and international issues.

Asked whether the Soviet Union seeks to reconcile al-Asad and 'Arafat, Zotov said: We call for improved relations between the leadership of the Palestinians and that of the Syrians. We notice that there are several new and important elements. He added: The Syrian leadership is ready to improve its ties with the PLO, particularly with Yasir 'Arafat. The Soviet ambassador also said his country was ready to make big strides in coordination between Syria and the PLO. [passage omitted]

Soviet Reportage

For Soviet reportage of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union, including talks with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 30 April issue of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Delegation Returns 29 Apr

JN2904143690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 141 5 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon following a working visit to the Soviet

Union at the invitation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. During the visit, the president held lengthy talks with President Gorbachev in two meetings, an expanded one and and a closed one lasting over three hours. He also held talks with Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dimitriy Yazov.

The delegation that took part in the talks—comprising Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Daniel Ni'mah, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front; and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—returned with the president.

Heading those who saw the president off at the Moscow airport were: Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Presidency Council and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Fikriyat Tabeyev, deputy prime minister of the Russian SFSR; Aleksandr Dzasokhov, chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Middle Eastern and North African Administration at the USSR Foreign Ministry; Aleksandr Zotov, the USSR ambassador in Damascus; and a number of officials at the Foreign and Defense ministries. The president was also seen off by Syrian Ambassador in Moscow 'Isam al-Na'ib, the embassy staff, and representatives of the Syrian Arab community in the Soviet Union.

TASS carried the official report on the talks the president held with President Gorbachev. It gave a review of the talks which centered on the means to improve cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields, and the situation in the region and the world.

Radio Commentary Reviews Talks

JN3004143090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union and his talks with Gorbachev were followed with keen interest, especially given the nature of the subjects on their agenda and the fact that Moscow's relations with Syria, the Arab-Zionist conflict, and the Jewish emigration have far-reaching consequences. Clearly, Western circles resentful of the distinguished relations between Syria and the USSR are once more disappointed. The Soviet Union has expressed in no uncertain terms its adherence to its friendship and multi-faceted cooperation with Syria. For his part, President al-Asad declared that relations with the USSR are dynamic in so far as peace and security in the Middle East are concerned and that further efforts will be invested in the interest of yet better relations in all areas.

Thus, those who had wagered on an unraveling of Syrian-Soviet ties have been disillusioned. Indeed, all indications point to a reinforced friendship between the two countries.

President al-Asad's talks in Moscow have scored many successes, most notably, perhaps, on the front of Jewish emigration and the assertion by the Soviet leader that the subject be approached from the angle of Arab rights. This new Soviet stand marks an important shift that needs to be converted into physical reality. The talks have also highlighted a consensus as to which party is blocking an equitable solution and comprehensive peace. Obviously, Israel is opposed to this kind of solution. The United States, and, more particularly, the incumbent Administration, refuses to do what it is in its power to do—pave the way for a peaceful settlement.

Needless to say, Israel's acts of belligerence, expansionism, and obstructionism would not have been possible if it were not for American subsidies and backing. The keys to Israel are in the United States; all Washington has to do is use these keys to get Israel to stop blocking all efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. The time is right for the U.S. Administration to redeem its Middle East policies from Israeli captivity. It is thanks to this American posture that it has been possible for Israel to flout Arab rights and take its time attempting to quell the intifadah.

Attempts by Israel and the West to sideline the Soviet Union in the Middle East have aimed to enable the vicious Zionist state to take on the Arab states one at a time and force on them potentially pernicious, piecemeal solutions and separate deals. Hence Israel's consistent opposition to any Soviet role and a UN-sponsored peace conference to be attended by the USSR—an unfailing friend and champion of Arab causes. And hence the U.S. preference for bilateral talks between Israel and each of its Arab protaganists—a posture at odds with the requirements of equitable peace and, indeed, worse than that of the former U.S. Administration, which in itself could not have been worse.

The attempts to split Arab ranks and fragment the cause can only serve Israel and its irredentism. We have recently seen enough of Israel's recalcitrance, its plans to settle Jewish immigrants in occupied territory and promote the dream of greater Israel to conclude that regional peace will remain an impossibility short of two basic requirements—Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and assurance of Palestinian rights. As for the kind of separate deals and piecemeal, truncated and deformed solutions peddled by the U.S. Administrations, far from being a recipe for peace, these make an explosive situation even more volatile and advance the enemy's aggressive blueprints. Under the circumstances, the Syrian-Soviet relations serve as a guarantee for Arab rights and a just and comprehensive settlement in the region and keep the prospects of permanent peace alive—not to mention numerous benefits for the two peoples and friendly nations.

The al-Asad-Gorbachev talks have served to underline the continuity of these ties and the potential for their further development. Our enemies are out not only to rob the Arabs of a faithful friend; they also seek to drive a wedge between the USSR and its faithful friends around the world.

Afghanistan

Najibullah on Reconciliation, Repatriation

JN3004192690 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Apr 90 p 2

[Interview with President Najibullah by Bayyumi Qandil in Kabul—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Qandil] How do you assess the strength of your opponents?

[Najibullah] Our political, or armed opponents, I should say, are lacking a clear objective or defined program. This is in addition to the absence of unity within their ranks. They have split into six parties based in Pakistan and another nine in Iran and they are still fragmenting. It is, therefore, hard for us to view them as a monolithic political force.

[Qandil] How effective have the extreme religious slogans raised by the opposition with the Afghan people been?

[Najibullah] The return of Soviet troops to their country and the gradual unmasking of the self-styled mujahidin have shaken the confidence of Afghan masses in these slogans, which only seek to deceive them and win them over. The slogans raised by the opposition have lost whatever pull they may have had on the masses. Consider the differences that have bedeviled relations among opposition groups. Add to that the fact that Afghan masses are increasingly coming to know the true goals of these "violators". These masses are witnessing the murder by these "mujahidin" of learned men of religion and the destruction of mosques on a daily basis and their involvement in drug trafficking using the ingenuous pretext that jihad in the cause of God justifies all means—something that is not remotely Islamic. [passage omitted]

[Qandil] During our presence in Kabul, we learned that some refugees have returned home from abroad. When do you expect a massive return of an estimated 3 million Afghan refugees based in Pakistan?

[Najibullah] Upward of 335,000 refugees have returned to the country. They have welcomed the government's conciliatory policies. There would have been a return of refugees on a massive scale, if it were not for the huge obstacles erected by the armed groups and Pakistani military circles. Foreign interference in Afghanistan's international affairs would, then, have come to an end and so would the war itself. If Pakistan were to honor the pledges binding on her by the 1988 Geneva agreements, the refugees would return in no time. We must not forget, though, that scores of families are daily making their way back via rough mountainous routes.

[Qandil] Does your huge military outlays leave enough of the national budget for development?

[Najibullah] It is natural that the continuation of an 11-year war imposed on us from across the border has such adverse consequences for our national economy. Agricultural facilities and the water network have been hit, and production has, on the whole, deteriorated as a result of rocket attacks on villages and towns, schools, hospitals, and other public utilities which have either been badly damaged or razed. Our government, however, every year puts new infusions of cash in sectors where the needs of the populace are greatest. We welcome assistance from peace-loving nations around the world and from world organizations to make up for the war-related losses.

[Qandil] Do you think Egypt may be able to play the role of mediator to bring peace to your country?

[Najibullah] We are confident that as a major Islamic nation Egypt may play a mediating role to end the war and fratricidal fighting as directed by the Koran. This will be in line with Egypt's message to exert itself in the cause of peace and reconciliation in this part of the world, given its resources and spiritual influence with all Muslims who want peace.

Najibullah Promotes Officers on Anniversary

LD2704184390 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, 26 April BAKHTAR—In accordance with a decree issued by Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the following officers were promoted one rank higher in appreciation of their good and valuable services, active participation in the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, and in honor of the 12th anniversary of the Sowr Revolution:

a. Promotion to the rank of lieutenant general:

1. Major General Manokay Mangal, son of Barakatollah.

2. Maj. Gen. Muhammad Zahir Solamal, son of Din Muhammad

b. Promotion to the rank of major general:

1. Brigadir General Gol Muhammad, son of Babrak

2. Brig. Gen. Alaoddin, son of Ghowsoddin

3. Brig. Gen. Shaykh Muhammad Bawaar, son of Mir Salam

4. Brig. Gen. 'Abdul Samad Rayiz, son of Sher Muhammad

5. Brig. Gen. Gholam Qadir Meyakhel, son of Abdorrasol

6. Brig. Gen. Muhammad Mosa Wardak, son of Ajab Gol

7. Brig. Gen. Muhammad Asef Alam, son of Muhammad Mohsen

8. Brig. Gen. Welayat Khan, son of Habib Khan

9. Brig. Gen. Mohammad Asef Ferozan, son of Muhammad Hamid

10. Brig. Gen. Shahbaz, son of Shahzada

11. Brig. Gen. Hayatollah [word indistinct], son of Nasrollah

12. Brig. Gen. Taj Muhammad, son of Saleh Muhammad

c. Promotion to the rank of brigadier general:

1. Colonel Muhammad Ayab, son of Abas

2. Col. Muhammad Zarif, son of Joma Ahmad

3. Col. Muhammad Hanif, son of Bedi

4. Col. Nezamoddin, son of Gheyasoddin

5. Col. In Yamin, son of Muhammad Azim

6. Col. Muhammad Yusof Salangi, son of Fayz Mohammad

7. Col. Abdul Ghafur, son of Abdul Karim

8. Col. Muhammad Aslam, son of Rustam

9. Col. Zolmay, son of Abdul Samad

10. Col. Muhammad Zafar, son of Muhammad Aslam

11. Col. Salah Muhammad, son of Payenda Muhammad

12. Col. Gholam Faruq Parwani, son of Khodabakhsh

13. Col. Sher Alam, son of Muhammad Ibrahim

14. Col. Abdul Qadir, son of Abdul Qodus

15. Col. Hamidollah, son of Ruhollah

16. Col. Abdorrahman, son of Sohbat Khan

17. Col. Barat Ali, son of Gholam Reza

18. Col. Muhammad Kabir, son of Muhammad Akbar

19. Col. Muhammad Yusof, son of Ramadan

20. Col. Gol Muhammad, son of Fazel Muhammad

21. Col. Gholam Faruq, son of Gholam Ali

22. Col. Abdul Fatah, son of Abdorrahman

23. Col. Muhammad Zahir Kochi, son of Bahadur

24. Col. Zeya'oddin, son of Abdul Hadi

25. Col. Abdul Momen, son of Muhammad Akbar

26. Col. Din Muhammad, son of Abdul Muhammad

27. Col. Sayd Muhammad Yunis, son of Sayd Gholam Reza

28. Col. Shokrollah, son of Muhammad Ghows

29. Col. Abdul Ghani Safi, son of Adbul Qayum

30. Col. Muhammad Husyn Naem, son of Muhammad Naem

31. Col. Muhammad Qasem, son of Rahim Shah

32. Col. Akhtar Gol, son of Shayesta

33. Col. Sayd Karim Torialay, son of Mehro

34. Col. Gol Muhammad Sori, son of Muhammad Omar

35. Col. Abdul Khalil, son of Abdul Samad

36. Col. Sayd Gholam, son of Golondi

37. Col. Abdul Malik, son of Abdul Khaliq

38. Col. Abdul Karim, son of Abdorrahman

40. Col. 'Ali Muhammad, son of Muhammad 'Ali

41. Col. Muhammad Osman, son of Muhammad Aslem

42. Col. Salahoddin, son of Gholam Nabi

43. Col. Haji Nawab, son of Gol Rahman

44. Col. Abdul Ahmad, son of Fazel Ahmad

45. Col. Muhammad Qasem, son of Jan Muhammad

46. Col. Abdul Razaq Beg, son of Muhammad Sediq

47. Col. Shaista, son of Torab

'International Solidarity' Marked on May Day

LD0105062290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Kabul, April 30, BAKHTAR—To fairly mark May first—the international solidarity day of workers, gala functions were held today in Central Council of Trade Unions, educational institutions, Watan Nursery, productive enterprises, workers collectives and contingents and detachments of the armed forces in centre and in provinces of the country.

Speakers, in these gatherings, spoke on the heroic struggles of workers in building a new society, defence from their righteous rights, implementation of national reconciliation policy as well as ending fratricidal war and ensurance of a just and durable peace in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Sends Gorbachev Message of Thanks

LD2704181890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] A message of thanks has been sent to Moscow with the following text by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to USSR President

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, in reply to a message of congratulation sent on occasion of the 12th anniversary of the April revolution:

His Excellency Mikhail Sergeyevich, I am pleased on behalf of the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself to convey my thanks and appreciation to you for your congratulatory message on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the April revolution.

The State of the Republic of Afghanistan and all the patriotic and peaceloving forces of our country, in these hard days of the defense of their country, mention with appreciation the support and backing of the Soviet people and state as before.

The State of the Republic of Afghanistan will use all its efforts toward the national reconciliation policy, the cessation ending of fratricidal war, and the ensurance of lasting peace.

We are pleased about the implementation of the perestroyka in the Soviet society, the development of openness and democracy in that country, the favorable international climate to protect international peace and security which has been created as a result of efforts by the Soviet leader. We sincerely wish the people and the friendly state of the Soviet Union to achieve more victories.

From the bottom of my heart I wish you health and further success in this great humanitarian cause.

[Signed) Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Surface-to-Surface Missile Hits Kabul, Injures Two

LD2804161790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Contrary to all humane and Islamic norms, the Pakistani-backed extremists fired again today—the third day of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr—a U.S.-made surface-to-surface missile at Kabul city.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reported that this missile hit near Abn-e Sena Hospital, whereby two of our compatriots were injured. The injured persons were quickly taken to a hospital and put under intensive care. Their medical condition is said to be satisfactory.

Rebels Reportedly Capture Baghlan Security Posts

BK2904154290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin forces have reportedly captured four security posts in Khenjan area of Baghlan Province and destroyed three other posts between Khenjan and [word indistinct] along Salang Highway. During their operation, the mujahidin defused land mines planted in the area and seized heavy weapons and ammunition.

In another operation in the Pol-e Khomri area, several Kabul regime soldiers were killed or wounded, while four mujahidin troops were martyred. The mujahidin are reported to have ambushed a convoy between Shindand and Farah, destroying 35 tanks and military vehicles. During attacks on military positions in Qarah Bagh area near Kabul, the mujahidin inflicted losses on Kabul troops and seized a large number of light and heavy weapons.

The news agency MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN reported that Kabul regime jet fighter aircraft conducted bombing raids at several places in Sorkh Rud District during 'Id al-Fitr, killing one woman and two children and wounding four others.

Regime Forces Capture Four Pakistani 'Agents'

LD3004090290 Kabul Domestic in English 0454 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 29, BAKHTAR—Four Pakistani citizens who had penetrated illegally into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] for direct involvement in terroristic activities had been recently seized by the personnel of the Armed Forces, a BAKHTAR military correspondent said.

Those seized are Sayed Ghioruddin, Abdul Raoof, Haji Baba and Azim Khan [names as received] from several areas of the Provinces of (?Paktia) Ghazni and Qandahar when they were engaged in anti-government activities in the composition of extremist armed groups.

This is not the first time that the Government of Pakistan and particularly Pakistan's Inter-State Intelligence, ISI, are sending their agents into the territory of Afghanistan for conducting terroristic activities but they were captured several times in the past from different parts of the country including Nangarhar, Qandahar and Khowst.

Recently, the Pakistani press has openly confessed that the Pakistani agents were directly involved with the armed extremists in the war and has published things in connection with their being killed in the face-to-face confrontation with the RA Armed Forces.

The investigation of the arrested persons are under way.

Bangladesh

Japan's Kaifu Arrives in Dhaka for Aid Talks

OW0105064790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Dhaka, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu arrived Tuesday [1 May] from New Delhi on the second leg of a nine-day, five-nation Asian trip. Kaifu will meet President Hussain Mohammad Ershad at the Presidential House after a welcoming ceremony at the airport. The talks are expected to focus

on Japan's economic assistance to Bangladesh, the largest recipient of Japanese grant aid.

Bangladesh, with a population of 110 million, is ranked by the United Nations as one of the world's poorest nations.

Kaifu, who will stay in Dhaka for 21 hours, is the first Japanese premier to visit Bangladesh since its independence from Pakistan in 1972. He will leave for Pakistan on Wednesday [2 May] and will later visit Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

India

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu Continues Visit

Addresses Parliament

BK3004163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, has expressed his concern over the Kashmir situation and said India and Pakistan should solve the issue peacefully through talks in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement. Addressing members of both houses in the central hall of parliament this evening, Mr. Kaifu said both the countries should ease tension through self-restraint. He said we should neither allow unrest, disorder, terrorism, or regional conflicts to increase, nor should we revive centuries-old ethnic and religious confrontations. Mr. Kaifu pointed out that relaxation of tension and a cooperative relationship among countries in the South Asian region are important conditions for further promotion of economic development. These conditions, he said, will not only enable the countries in the region to fully mobilize the productive energy of their peoples but also reduce security burdens.

Our parliamentary correspondent says the central hall was packed to capacity as Mr. Kaifu, accompanied by the prime minister, the Rajya Sabha chairman, and the Lok Sabha speaker took the dais. Members greeted with thumping of desks when the Japanese prime minister referred to the Simla agreement as the basis for solving the Kashmir issue.

Turning to international economic relations, the Japanese prime minister said the new international order must guarantee lasting peace and security. Pointing out that some developing countries continue to be plagued with debt accumulation, Mr. Kaifu stressed it is necessary in the interest of world economy as a whole to resolve their economic difficulties. He said the urgent task before us is to preserve and strengthen GATT.

The Japanese prime minister recalled his meeting with the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and said he had very frank discussions with him.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, emphasized the need for countering the cult of violence, intolerance, and absolutism through greater emphasis on humanism, pluralism, democracy, and peaceful coexistence. He said the nexus between terrorism, drug trafficking, and cynical distortion of religion strike at fundamental values that bind peoples and nations together.

Referring to the Indo-Japanese relations, the prime minister said the two countries treasure not only the heritage of the Buddha, but also a common tradition of democratic institutions.

In his welcome address, the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said Japan enjoys the unique distinction of being the first Asian nation to achieve a level of economic development and modernization equal to the most advanced in the world.

The speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Rabi Ray, expressed satisfaction that India and Japan do not have any major outstanding problems and their bilateral relations have been marked by a commonality of views on many international issues.

In the meanwhile, during the second round of talks with Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Mr. Kaifu said Japan will extend a 100-billion yen credit to India during this year. This will be about 1,250 crore rupees, which represents an increase of 10 percent over last year.

Mr. Singh appreciated the Japanese assurance to increase the development assistance. He said Mr. Kaifu's visit will be a landmark and a watershed in the relations between the two countries.

Our correspondent says that the second round of talks between the two delegation covered mainly bilateral matters, though SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] also figured briefly.

Mr. Kaifu also inaugurated the newly set up Buddhist art gallery at the National Museum. The president, Mr. Venkataraman, hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary.

Vows Support for Development

OW3004205590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1425 GMT 30 Apr 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] New Delhi, April 30 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu declared here on Monday [30 April] that Japan will help achieve peace and prosperity in Asia and promote friendship with countries in the region. "I would like to pronounce clearly Japan's intent to continue its vigorous support for the political stability and economic development of South Asian countries as well as the rest of Asia by engaging in dialogue and cooperation," Kaifu said.

The Japanese prime minister, who is currently in India on a nine-day tour through South Asia, spoke at a joint session

of India's two-chamber parliament and spelled out his South Asia and global policies. Specifically, Kaifu offered to promote political and economic dialogue, expand development assistance, and promote cultural exchange and cooperation "in order to give further depth and breadth to Japan's relations with South Asian countries."

The prime minister first touched on rapid reforms sweeping through Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and said an increasing number of people in the world are accepting "the ideas of freedom, democracy and the market economy."

"The idea that we should search for a new international order through dialogue and cooperation is gaining ground," he said.

Kaifu, however, cautioned that changes in the global situation "may not necessarily translate immediately into peace and stability in all parts of the world." He said world peace still rests on deterrence and the balance of power.

Kaifu said the world needs to establish a "new international order" economically and to tackle, from a global point of view, such problems as the environment, drugs, terrorism, and population growth. To achieve the new international order, the prime minister said "first, lasting peace and security must be guaranteed," and "secondly, freedom and democracy must be respected. Thirdly, expansion of prosperity must be ensured under an open and free market economic system," and "fourthly, a sound global environment must be preserved to ensure the welfare of mankind."

Kaifu said Japan can and must play a positive role by effectively using its economic and technological capabilities as well as experiences to help build up a new world.

In the policy speech titled "Japan and South Asia in Pursuit of Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Prosperity," Kaifu also referred to China, the Korean peninsula and Cambodia. Japan seeks "a stable and open China," Kaifu said.

While regretting the bloody crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in June 1989, the prime minister said "it is extremely important to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region that China maintain stable, cooperative relations with other countries of the world without falling into isolation."

Japan will strive to strengthen ties with South Korea and also continue efforts to realize direct dialogue with North Korea with which it has no diplomatic ties, he said.

Kaifu said Japan continues to call for an early political settlement to the 11-year-long war in Cambodia and that progress in dialogue among warring factions is most important.

Kaifu, who is scheduled to visit Islamabad later this week, touched on strained relations between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and urged both countries to "exercise self-restraint and try to solve the issue peacefully through talks."

Tensions are running high between India and Pakistan, which have fought twice over Kashmir since 1947. Kashmir is predominantly Hindu India's only Moslem state. An estimated 300 or more people have been killed there amid secessionist struggles since mid-January.

Kaifu said parliamentary democracy is taking root and social stability is increasing, not only in India, but elsewhere in South Asia. "Recent developments in Nepal merit welcome."

The prime minister expressed appreciation for concerted efforts by the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in promoting the welfare of the peoples and social and cultural development in the region. Japan is ready to provide a wide range of help to the SAARC if it hopes to receive cooperation from outside the region, he said. The association, established in 1985, links Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Kaifu told the Indian parliament that Japan's fresh commitment of support for Eastern Europe will "in no way weaken our determination to attach high priority to South Asia."

He also called for promoting human exchanges between Japan and South Asia and announced what he called the "Japan-South Asia Youth Friendship Program." Japan will invite 500 young people from South Asia to Japan over the next five years under the program, he said.

Kaifu, who is scheduled to visit Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia later in the tour, said "I shall be more than gratified should this journey of mine contribute to the strengthening of bonds of solidarity between all these countries and mine."

Addresses Parliament

OW0105004990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1426 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 30 KYODO—The following are excerpts from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's speech at the Indian parliament on Monday [30 April]:

—The world now is undergoing drastic political and economic changes.... The idea that we should search for a new international order through dialogue and cooperation is gaining ground.

—We have to take note of the fact that world security still rests on deterrence and the balance of power.

—... Today a new order of international economy beyond the one that used to govern nothing but trade in goods is being called for.

—We must join forces to build a new order. This new international order must satisfy the following conditions. First, lasting peace and security must be guaranteed. Secondly, freedom and democracy must be respected as fundamental values of the international

community. Thirdly, the expansion of world prosperity must be ensured under an open and free market economic system. Fourthly, a sound global environment must be preserved so as to ensure the happiness and welfare of mankind.

—Now that a new world through dialogue and cooperation is being called for, Japan can and must play a positive role by putting to effective use its economic and technological capabilities as well as experiences that it has gained to date.

—What we seek is a stable and open China....It is extremely important to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region that China maintain stable, cooperative relations with other countries of the world without falling into isolation.

—On the Korean peninsula,...we shall aim at the realization of direct dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

—With regard to the Cambodian problem,...we believe that progress in dialogue among the concerned parties of Cambodia to be most important. We are engaged in concrete studies to that end.

—Peace and stability in Asia is a matter of great concern to Japan. ... I would also like to pronounce Japan's intent to continue its vigorous support for the political stability and economic development of South Asian countries as well as the rest of Asia ...

—I shall positively implement the following concrete measures in order to give further depth and breadth to Japan's relations with South Asian countries. These are, namely, the promotion of political and economic dialogue, the expansion of development assistance and the promotion of cultural exchange and cooperation.

—India is the world's largest democracy....Parliamentary democracy is taking root and social stability is improving in other South Asian countries....The recent developments in Nepal merit welcome.

—... I have been watching with concern the unfolding of the situation in Kashmir. I strongly hope that the governments of India and Pakistan will ease the tension through the exercise of self-restraint and try to solve the issue peacefully through talks....

—Should SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) as an organization desire to receive cooperation from countries outside the region ..., Japan will be prepared to consider extending appropriate cooperation.

—The government of Japan shall continue to make its utmost efforts...by positioning Southwest Asia as a priority area for its official development assistance.

Meets Gandhi, Stresses New Order

OW0105005190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 30 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi agreed on Monday [30 April] that Japan and India should cooperate toward establishing a new international order, Japanese officials said. During the 30-minute session with Gandhi, Kaifu pointed to the need to organize a meeting of representatives from the rich North and poor South, the officials said. Major industrialized countries need to take part in dialogue with the South and to help developing countries promote their economic development, the Japanese prime minister was quoted as saying.

The former Indian premier told Kaifu that economics has come to play a more important role than military might in the current international political scene.

Gandhi urged Japan, as the Free World's second largest economic power, to play a larger role in helping create a new international order which distributes benefits between the North and South more equally.

Kaifu replied that Japan will continue to devote itself to building a more equitable and open global economic system, the officials said.

Gandhi stepped down from power after his Congress Party suffered an election defeat last December.

Departs for Bangladesh

BK0105045490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, left New Delhi for Dhaka today at the end of his three-day official visit to India. He was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and senior officials.

During his stay in the capital, the Japanese prime minister held discussions with the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, on bilateral, regional, and international issues. He also held wide-ranging talks with the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Premier Speaks on Integrated Defense Approach

BK3004101790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that an integrated defense approach is to be adopted to meet the long- and short-term security threats to the country. Mr. Singh, who also holds the defense portfolio, said during a question hour that the government will not compromise on national security at any stage. He maintained that the previous government has done great harm to the country's defense by keeping the defense allocations static, which in real terms meant a cut-down taking into account the inflation and drop in the rupee value as compared to the dollar.

When a Congress-I member and former minister contended that the previous government could keep the defense budget low as no country could dare to threaten India's security, Mr. V.P. Singh reminded the house that this was a false perception of peace based on confused

thinking. Pakistan during this period had almost tripled its naval strength and doubled its army, he added.

U.S. Criticized Over 'Super 301 Trade Embargo'

BK3004145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] In the Rajya Sabha today, members criticized the U.S. Administration's decision to single out India under the Super 301 trade embargo and described it as blackmail, unfair, and an unfortunate step. They urged the government to stand firm and not to yield under U.S. pressure.

Raising the issue through a special mention, Mr. Tulasi Reddy, Telugu Desam, said the American move is an attempt to force India to allow a backdoor entry to the U.S. multinationals.

Iran

Paper Urges Western Response to Hostage Release

NC0105091490 Paris AFP in English 0909 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 1 (AFP)—Iran will not continue its efforts to free hostages in Lebanon without an appropriate response from the West, the TEHRAN TIMES warned Tuesday [1 May].

The editorial comment followed Monday's [30 April] release of U.S. academic Frank Reed, 57, held hostage in Lebanon since September 9 1986.

"The Islamic Republic used its maximum power and credibility for the release of the hostages," the paper said, referring to Mr. Reed and Robert Polhill, who was released a week earlier. But it added: "Naturally without an appropriate response from the West, there is no chance for the continuation of Iranian mediation and requests."

Fifteen Westerners are still held in Lebanon, six of them Americans.

It said Lebanese Muslim groups were fully prepared for the resolution of the hostage crisis in the shortest time possible: "From the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which put in months of hard effort, something miraculous has happened." It hoped the hostage crisis would be resolved this year.

But the English-language paper, which is regarded as a mouthpiece for President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said it was now up to the United States and other Western countries to pressure Israel and pro-Western groups to allow the process to continue.

Tehran wants the release of four Iranians kidnapped in Beirut in 1982, and the Israelis to free Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and other Shiite prisoners. The Shaykh was kidnapped by Israeli troops from his home in Lebanon last July.

The newspaper said the next step should be the release of a "significant number of hostages including a few Iranian hostages and Shaykh 'Ubayd."

Syria has also said it expected a gesture of goodwill from the United States.

U.S. President George Bush paid tribute Monday to both Syria and Iran for obtaining Mr. Reed's release, but ruled out any positive U.S. response until all the hostages were freed.

The TEHRAN TIMES described that precondition as "hostile", and also criticised the U.S. House of Representatives, which last week adopted a resolution declaring Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The resolution was adopted after Mr. Polhill's release, and was denounced as an "ugly move" by the newspaper.

U.S. Contacts Lebanese Forces on Iranian Hostages

LD0105111390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Beirut revealed that the United States recently made some contacts with the command staff of the Lebanese Forces on the fate of the four Iranians abducted in the eastern sector of Beirut. According to a report of the Central News Unit, these sources said: Washington has asked the command staff of the Lebanese Forces to clarify the fate of the Iranian hostages as soon as possible. The same sources added: The command staff of the Lebanese forces has not yet given a decisive reply to Washington on the fate of the four Iranian hostages or the possibility of their release in the new future.

It is necessary to point out that the issue of hostage-taking began in 1982 in the wake of the abduction of four Iranians by Lebanon's Phalangists.

UN Envoy on Further Hostage Releases

PM0105101490 London BBC Television Network in English 2135 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Interview with Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Dr. Kamal Kharrazi in New York by news presenter Donald MacCormick in London; from BBC 2 "Newsnight" program following report on release of American hostage Frank Reed—live]

[Text] [MacCormick] Now joining me from New York is Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, who is Iran's representative at the United Nations. First of all, Dr. Kharrazi, we could certainly hear—I don't know if you could also—Mr. Frank Reed's moving description of his three and one-half years in captivity blindfolded. Do you unreservedly condemn the circumstances in which he was held?

[Kharrazi] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate [sentence in Arabic]. Yes, we have already condemned the issue of hostage keeping, and we are basically against such an unhumanitarian issue, and

really, I feel very bad when I heard that what has happened to Mr. Reed. And basically, since we are also ourself a victim of this issue, as four Iranians have been kept hostage in Lebanon for eight years—and actually, one of them has been my ex-colleague, a photojournalist, and I have been in contact with his family—that I can feel that how deeply they are sad and what sort of problems these sort of families have, so I'm very happy that Mr. Reed is released today.

[MacCormick] We heard the Syrian foreign minister talking about these goodwill gestures—the release of Mr. Polhill and now of Mr. Reed—and he suggested that reciprocal goodwill gestures were required from the West. What specifically do you think the West now needs to do to secure the release of other... the other hostages as well?

[Kharrazi] Actually, our exertion of influence has not had any precondition, and the only thing that we believe would be facilitative to release of other hostages is the exertion of the influence of other countries to the related parties to release the other hostages. For example, there are four Iranian hostages in Lebanon—as recently there has been information by [name indistinct], Ja'ja', as well as Michel 'Awn that they are alive—and so on our part, certainly, we expect that the other countries would exert their influence on Phalangists to release Iranian hostages. As well, there are hostages in the hand of Israel; there are captives—few hundred captives—in the hand of Israel, and certainly, there should be some pressure on Israel to release those captives and hostages. This certainly would facilitate the release of all the hostages, because the Muslim people of Lebanon have been under attack, and they have been facing a lot of grievances, and somehow they have been, you know... All of these issues should be considered and taken into consideration, as well.

[MacCormick] Were you, were you encouraged, Dr. Kharrazi, by what you heard President Bush saying a moment ago when he said that no one should be held against their will in captivity and seemed to suggest that, yes, he might be willing to put pressure, for example, on the Israelis over the cases you have mentioned?

[Kharrazi] We appreciate any sort of pressure by any government on Israel to release those hostages and captives in South Lebanon, as well as in Israel.

[MacCormick] And what about the British hostages, in particular?

[Kharrazi] This exactly would be to British hostages, because we have done our best as a humanitarian step to release all hostages—I mean, to be released all the hostages, regardless of their nationalities—and this would be also correct for British hostages; and certainly, we would be very hopeful if we could do something to British hostages as well.

[MacCormick] Dr. Kharrazi, thank you very much for helping us.

Paper Denounces Vincennes Captain's Decoration

NC0105144090 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 1 May 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, May 1 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper denounced U.S. President George Bush Tuesday [1 May] following reports that he had decorated the captain of the USS Vincennes after the vessel had shot down an Iranian Airbus over the Gulf. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, considered close to hardliners here, said Mr. Bush's action was an "insult to the Iranian people" and proof that the United States "had not changed its arrogant attitude towards Iran and the Iranian people."

The USS Vincennes shot down the Iran Air Airbus on July 3, 1988, killing all 290 passengers and crew, after a clash with Iranian vessels in the Gulf. The U.S. president at the time, Ronald Reagan, expressed regret over the tragedy but said the Vincennes took appropriate defensive action.

"Those who think naively that Washington has changed should think about the real meaning of (Mr. Bush's) gesture. A crime once considered an error is now considered a meritorious act," the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

The Washington Post of April 23 said Captain Will Rogers early last year received the Legion of Merit, the armed forces' second highest peacetime award, "for exceptionally meritorious conduct" while in charge of the USS Vincennes. The citation made no mention of the destruction of the Airbus but described a skirmish between the Vincennes and seven Iranian vessels minutes before the incident. [passage omitted]

Reports of Capt. Roger's decoration came amid the release by pro-Iranian groups of two U.S. hostages held in Lebanon—Robert Polhill on April 22 and Frank Reed on Monday [30 April].

Iran, which took credit for securing Mr. Reed's release, Tuesday threatened to halt further efforts to free Western hostages unless the United States responded with a reciprocal gesture towards Teheran.

Mr. Bush thanked Syria and Iran for Mr. Reed's liberation but said there could be no return to normal relations with Teheran, nor any "vast improvement... until all Americans are free."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI called on the Iranian Foreign Ministry and Iran Air to denounce "the arrogant and inhuman positions of the United States before international bodies."

It said "those in Iran calling for direct talks with the United States should ... demonstrate whom they are for: the United States or the Iranian people." The paper was referring to remarks last week by Vice President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani in which he called for the opening of direct negotiations with the United States, saying such a move could serve Iranian interests. His proposal was denounced by former interior minister and prominent

hardliner 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and several newspapers. On Sunday [29 April], the office of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani played down the issue, saying Mr. Mohajerani had expressed a personal view.

Further Criticism of Mohajerani Call for Talks

LD2904182290 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Vice-President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani's recent views on 'direct talks' with the U.S. was strongly criticized by a number of Tehran newspapers Saturday and Sunday [28 and 29 April].

The Persian daily 'KEYHAN' in its editorial lashing out at the article termed its message as recommended the revolution to cease 'fighting against the arrogance' on the one hand and to bow down to the U.S. and the West on the other.

The vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs suggested in his article published in 'ETTELA'AT' on Thursday that Washington's proposal for 'direct talks' might be given a second thought.

The morning daily 'JOMHURI-E ESLAMI' Saturday lashed out at the idea in an article titled 'Deviation.' Meanwhile, a gathering was held Sunday by Tehran University Students' Islamic Association in protest at the article.

KEYHAN, a highly-circulated afternoon daily, believed that any idea encouraging the officials to retreat from late Imam Khomeyni's line and principles would eventually result in burying the revolution's achievement. Such suggestions, the editorial said, will mean putting the late imam's line aside, accepting the rule of opponents of the divine rule and finally destroying the revolution.

The daily recalling some of the anti-arrogant and anti-U.S. viewpoints made by the late imam, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and the president said 'the proponents of reconciliation and compromise' might pin hope on such suggestions when the late imam's line and velayat-e faqih (the rule of supreme jurisprudence) disappears in the Islamic Republic something which the daily considered impossible.

In another political commentary, KEYHAN also published an article written by former interior minister and now Majles deputy 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi who termed Mohajerani's article as 'begging for mercy from the great Satan.'

Mohtashemi calling the vice president's article as 'irresponsible' said it implies 'crash-landing of the system and death of the Islamic revolution.' [sentence as received] Mohtashemi further calling the article a disgrace before the public opinion believed that it lacked popular support.

Mohtashemi also reminded in his article of several U.S. crimes during the revolution and the imposed war and also its plots to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

President Disavows Connection to Mohajerani Article

LD0105065190 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Tuesday [1 May] quoting officials close to the president said that views expressed in a Thursday [26 April] article in the afternoon daily ETTELA'AT has nothing to do with the president.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI was referring to an article written by Vice-President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani in which he had favoured direct talks with the U.S.

"In the past three days three close associates of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani have asked him to comment on the ETTELA'AT article. The president while expressing displeasure with publication of the article, said content of the article has nothing to do with me," wrote JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Meanwhile another daily Tuesday quoted Masih Mohajeri of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI who is also presidential advisor as saying, "Well I talked to the president on Sunday [29 April] and he made it clear the article reflects the personal opinion of the writer and it has no connection with him."

Larijani Speaks on Threats From U.S., Iraq

NC2804173090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] The vali-ye amr [guardian of the cause] of the Muslims, Ayatollah Khamene'i, said: Our foreign policy should be based on dignity, wisdom, and "taqiyyeh" [concealing one's religion for fear of persecution; also sometimes means dissimulation]

Dr. Javad Larijani cited this last night at the monthly session of the Islamic Association of Engineers. In elaborating on the above remark, he said: Our dignity is a principle in our foreign relations which should be strictly adhered to, and this means that we should not bow down under any conditions whatsoever.

He stated: Wisdom implies that we should move in pursuit of our wise objectives; that is, we should have a wise program. We see such exemplary wisdom in the life of the Prophet Khizr [known for his guidance and leadership]. We should stand poised behind his eminence the leader and say that whatever he ordains is based on wisdom.

He added: Those who believe wisdom to be merely issuing statements are contradicting wisdom's dictates.

Explaining the concept of "taqiyyeh," Dr Larijani said: We saw ourselves besieged by apostasy in the era of the Taghut [during the shah's time] and continued our struggle in various forms and acted on the principle of "taqiyyeh." Today we should also be attentive to this principle as well whenever it appears necessary because we are still besieged by apostasy. He said: These are the

three indices cited by his eminence the leader which should delineate our path in practice.

During his address to the third session of the Islamic Association of Engineers, Dr. Larijani said: U.S. interests in the Third World are in proportion to its trying to dominate the entire world, and there is a full-fledged contrast between us.

Referring to the fact that the campaign against the United States is not something to be taken lightly, Larijani said: If we employ some wisdom, strategy, and intelligence, we can develop this country without the United States, but not in the manner advocated by the "slogan-raisers."

Alluding to the role of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] in battling against world oppression, he said: We should show that we are a united ummah, and in order to further our objectives, the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] should be free to act without his hands tied.

Citing the late [scholar] Neraqi and Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him), on the powers and jurisdiction of the vali-ye faqih, Dr. Larijani said: It is in contravention of Islam for anyone to strive to restrict the powers of the vali-ye faqih. He should have a free hand for the protection of the ummol-qora' [cradle of all Muslim towns, referring to Iran].

He added: If, for example, the vali-ye faqih decides it is in the interest of the system and Islam that we should go on the hajj and believes that it is detrimental for us not to do so, a letter should not be circulated right in the middle of negotiations for that purpose which undermines the negotiations. He continued: One may know that the vali-ye faqih is of the opinion that the hajj should be performed. If one then does something to prevent it, he will be deemed a rebel. According to the opinion of the sharia experts, this is tantamount to rebellion. We should not be involved in a power struggle like the U.S. parties.

Continuing the discussion on "national strategy" which he initiated at an earlier session last month, Dr. Larijani asked the following question: What are the reasons for the threats facing the ummol qora' and how can it be protected? In answer, he said: There are now two major threats on our borders: 1. The presence of the Iraqi Government. 2. An anti-Iranian Arab front.

Explaining how the Iraqi Government poses a serious threat to us, Dr. Larijani said: At present at least 3,000 square km of our territory are under Iraqi occupation. Similarly, a large number of the offspring of our soil and water are prisoners of the Ba'thist rulers. In addition, our sovereignty over the Arvand River has been violated because of the unprincipled stance of the Iraqi regime. These few cases are in themselves sufficient to prove the threat we face from Iraq.

Dr. Larijani said: Even if Iraq does not have anything to do with us, it is still a potential threat because it has three objectives: 1. Preponderance over Iran. 2. To become the regional gendarme. 3. To become an overlord in the Arab world.

Explaining these three objectives, he said: These objectives cannot be considered a minor danger. We cannot wait for danger or something to happen and then confront it. Right from now, it is necessary that we anticipate and preempt these objectives.

Iraq's desire for overlordship in the Arab world is to the detriment of Islam and our revolution. One of the weak points of our foreign policy today is that we do not have a well-defined policy toward the Arab states.

Regarding how to tackle the Iraqi Government, Dr. Larijani said: One solution would be to initiate a war. Another solution would be to resolve the issue through diplomacy. A third solution, however, would be to pursue the issue through means of incorporating a military as well as an active and dynamic diplomacy.

He stressed: In order to tackle Iraq and to vindicate our rights, we should take appropriate measures aided by our defensive strength and diplomacy.

Referring to the sanguinary Mecca incident, Dr. Larijani said: There is no doubt about the merciless massacre of the Iranian pilgrims by the Saudi Arabian Government nor about the bestiality of Fahd. There is also no room for doubt about the role of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] in this massacre as Fahd gave them $80 million as assistance after the massacre.

Regarding the U.S. plots in the region, Dr Larijani said: The United States is trying to establish an anti-Iranian Arab front in the region for greater U.S. domination with the following three purposes in mind:

1. To harness Iran.

2. To bring about some adjustments in Iran [ta'dil-e Iran]

3. To harness Europe.

He said: The United States wishes to exert so much pressure on us that we do not have the time even to glance beyond our borders. The United States has designs to bring what it terms moderate individuals to the helm of affairs in Iran. It has formulated plans to that effect and is working on some groups. It is possible that it may even give its consent to the Nehzat-e Azadi [Mehdi Bazargan's party].

On the U.S. plans to harness Europe by means of greater pressure, Dr. Larijani said: The world of the future is waiting to see an independent Europe. This Europe will have an immense need for energy. The region that can best provide the necessary energy is the Persian Gulf. Thus the United States plans to harness Europe by increasing its domination in this region.

On how this state of affairs can be confronted, Dr. Larijani said: Without doubt, we should not permit the anti-Iranian front to take shape. We should revamp our relations with the Persian Gulf states. Our line of contact between Pakistan and Turkey should be strengthened as it encompasses a population of 200 million. He added: We should seek a regional strategy for our security as this is the direction in which the world is moving. In order to attain security, the world is moving toward regional systems.

Pointing out various unprincipled stances, Dr. Larijani said: There is no loftier slogan in Islam than the protection of Islam, and there is no better way to protect Islam than to protect the ummol-qora' of Islam.

Besharati on Improving Saudi, Egyptian Ties

LD3004194990 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 30, IRNA—A senior Iranian official has spoken of the likelihood of improvement of Iran's diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. In a press conference here today, before he took off for Muscat, First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali-Mohammad Besharati said that all differences especially those with Riyadh could be resolved through negotiation.

The Iranian official is currently on a tour of Persian Gulf states and has conferred with the officials of Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

Asked about the missing westerners in Lebanon, he said the Islamic Republic would do everything to help secure their release.

He also deplored the exodus of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and warned of the short and long term impacts of the development.

In connection with the deadlocked peace talks with the Iraqi regime, Besharati told reporters that Iran has been receptive to every proposal by the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, but that in contrast the Iraqi negotiators have consistently pursued evasive tactics for gaining time.

He reminded that Iraq continues to occupy about 2,500 kilometers of Iranian soil, and that as soon as it has vacated those territories the repatriation of prisoners can take effect.

Rules Out Ties With Egypt

LD0105083190 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 1, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Tuesday [1 May] ruled out likelihood of establishing ties with the Egyptian regime.

Besharati made the remark in a contact with IRNA in reference to news agencies reports quoting him as having said that there existed possibility for establishment of Tehran-Cairo ties.

"As the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced on several occasions, ties between the Islamic Republic and Egypt are impossible as long as the Egyptian regime remains loyal to the Camp David accord and continues to recognize the usurper regime of Israel", he said.

He made it clear that what he meant by likelihood of establishment of relations with Egypt, was in referrence to a time when Egypt breached such obligations. Undoubtedly, Besharati added, afterwards establishment of ties between the two countries could be beneficial to Muslim nations of Iran and Egypt.

He stressed, "Iran has always announced that it is after establishment of close ties with Muslim and revolutionary nation of Egypt.

Editorial Comments on Rapprochement With Egypt

NC2704153990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Muslim Nations Should Foster Closer Ties"]

[Text] A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry recently denied political hearsay on Iran's receptiveness to restore relations with Egypt.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic had never sent any feelers, directly or through go-betweens, to Cairo on mending fences with Mubarak's regime. On the contrary, he stated, it is Egypt that has frequently requested resumption of diplomatic ties with Iran through third parties.

Tehran-Cairo ties became sore and eventually severed shortly after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 mainly because of Egypt's signing of the treacherous Camp David Accords with the Zionist enemy.

The pact with Israel was signed under the revolutionarily executed former Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat. Yet, when Husni Mubarak took over after him, not only did he not revoke the accords but did everything he could to corroborate it. Besides with the Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1980, Mubarak threw his lot with the Iraqi dictator and became one of Baghdad's staunchest supporters in its war with the Islamic Republic.

Egypt's very hostile moves therefore left no room for rapprochement and Iran could not care less for having relations with such a regime.

Besides Egypt there are six other Arab countries with which the Islamic Republic has no diplomatic relations. These include Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Mauritania. All of these governments made very hostile moves against Iran right from the very fledgling days of the new order in Iran, under all kinds of lame excuses. But they shared a common stand in their

hostility and anti-Iran campaign. Their main common feature was their fear of the spread of the Islamic movement. Their racist approach to the issue of the Iraqi war against Iran and their blind support for Baghdad, only out of racial considerations with no regard for justice and truth, should not go unheeded.

But the war is now over, at least relatively, and winds of change are blowing across the globe from every direction. In the emerging world order it seems all nations enjoying common cultural grounds are getting closer. As such the continuation of hostilities will not serve the best interests of anyone and is detrimental to the interests of masses in Islamic countries.

Saudis Criticized for Hajj Quota Limitation

'Vicious Impediment'

NC3004133190 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Apr 90 p 2

['Ali Akbar Javanfekr commentary entitled: "Saudi Malice in an Era of the Sovereignty of Islam"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The gruesome and shameful atrocity perpetrated by the Saudi regime in the merciless massacre of 400 of the best offspring of the pure Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him and his scion) in the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] is the most eloquent testimony of the servility of this regime toward the United States and its illegitimate protege Israel, and affirmation of its mercenary nature. [passage omitted]

Attempts to prevent the presence of the Iranian pilgrims at the Hajj ceremonies, together with the atmosphere of suffocation and repression which reigns over the sacred House of God, clearly prove that the objective is to enable the sovereignty of the Zionists and their anti-human policy to prevail officially not only over Holy Jerusalem, but also over the land of Hejaz and the Kabah of the Muslims of the world.

The Saudi regime persistently refuses to accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to the house of God, and the unfortunate specification of quotas by the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] which is itself experiencing internal weaknesses and problems, has created a vicious impediment in the path of the performance of the Hajj ceremonies in their true form by the Muslim nations of the world in general, and Islamic Iran in particular.

The totally hostile stance of the Saudi regime toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, which intensifies every year during the Hajj season, has actively preserved an area of tension in the Persian Gulf area. Without any doubt, the continuation of this trend will jeopardize the relative calm that has been evident in this sensitive region of the world, and could render it seriously unstable.

If the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region desire real peae and stability in this area, and consider it necessary for themselves, they would be wise to take the necessary measures to motivate the Saudi regime to retreat from its blatantly illogical and overtly instigatory stance. Failing this, there is no real guarantee that an uncontrollable situation will not arise, which is incapable of being averted. [passage omitted]

It would be appropriate for the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue to insist on their principled stance of sending 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to holy Mecca and to pursue this course until the Saudis revoke their unwise attitude.

KAYHAN Commentary

NC2904114290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 Apr 90 pp 5,14

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran-Saudi Dispute and Hajj"]

[Excerpts] For the third consecutive year following the 1987 Mecca Massacre, the dispute between Iran and Saudi Arabia over hajj remains unresolved. This is primarily because the Wahhabi ruling family in Saudi Arabia has imposed an unlawful quota system on the number of arrivals from each country (one thousand per million Muslims). Not content with this irrational restriction, the Saudis have also declared that no political demonstrations will be allowed at a time Muslims round the globe gather for the annual pilgrimage season.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to reject the Saudi position and 140 majlis deputies last week called for all obstacles in the way of pilgrims be removed and insists that Iran's contingent of 150,000 Muslims be allowed to perform their duties in Mecca and Medina. In an open letter to the ulema of Islam, the lawmakers also demanded that Riyadh pay blood money to the families of the 400 plus Iranian martyrs gunned down in July 1987 by the royal court's security forces. The letter of April 11 noted that Saudi Arabia should consent to holding 'Antipathy Against Infidels' rallies as had been done during the previous years.

In short it can be said that the two countries remain adamant in their declared positions and are not interested in a lasting solution that does not meet the positions reiterated by each over the past three years. Moreover the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries has become another hurdle to negotiations that might help break the present deadlock. Muslim capitals enjoying cordial ties with Tehran and Riyadh have made several mediation bids without success. Muslim leaders and third countries have appealed for understanding, restraint and flexibility from both sides in the spirit of Islamic solidarity. Nothing has been achieved. Islam's two holiest shrines remain closed to Iranian Muslims for two years because Wahhabism cannot tolerate the presence of revolutionary and freedom-loving Muslims in and around the House of Allah.

It was on Friday—July 31, 1987, that Wahhabism's hostility against genuine Islam reached climax. Near the Holy Ka'ba in Mecca Saudi security and intelligence

forces under the training and guidance of American experts attacked a peaceful rally held by hajjis from various countries. The Iranian-organized demonstration was in line with the religio-political concept of hajj and the almost 150,000 strong group was accused of a 'major crime'. Though this was not stated by the U.S.-backed regime in Riyadh, the pilgrims' crime was their slogans against the world's arrogant powers—mainly the United States, Soviet Union and Israel. [passage omitted]

It is apparent that Saudi agents and their U.S. coordinators had reached an undisputable understanding over "crowd control strategy." They had, according to several analysts, come to the final conclusion that some drastic and eye-opening action was necessary to cut the increasing number of hajjis who every year participate in the rallies in Mecca and Medina. [passage omitted]

The violence near the holy Ka'ba does not discount the fact that the Iranian side was taken by surprise. The demonstration on that fateful day was superbly organized but lacked preparedness and adequate guidance at the crucial point in the confrontation with the Saudi security forces. To say the least, organizers and related staff should have read the prevailing monstrous mood in Riyadh following Iran's successive battle victories in the war Iraq was waging with Saudi petro-dollars. Given the rising tension in the Persian Gulf region and al-Saud's propaganda offensives against the Islamic leadership, organizers of the pilgrimage should and could have embarked on the obligation with extra precaution. It goes without saying that the Wahhabis were definitely in a dirty mood and had strict royal orders 'to teach the Iranians a lesson.'

As the pilgrimage season draws nearer, the Iranian nation in general and the families of those martyred in Mecca in particular, prepare to mark the third death anniversary of their loved ones. In true Islamic societies hajj is accepted as a magnificent religious, social and political congregation. Neither the so-called guardians of the holy shrines nor their American masters have the power to force Muslims to concentrate only on the religious aspect of this sacred ritual which is one of the five pillars of Islam.

As for the Iranian nation it will not detach itself from the principles of the religion and Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) [may God's prayers be upon him] who said: In three circumstances a Muslim should not become disheartened; in devotion to the cause of Allah, in following the rightful Imams, and in accepting the unity of word of believers.

Sale of British 'Supergun' to Iraq Condemned

LD3004214190 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Following escalation of public discontent the British Government has announced that it is intending to revise an amendment to clear a taxation policy, which recently caused a controversy in that country. This [word indistinct] amendment will be brought about prior to the conduct of the closest mid-term [as heard] elections in Britain. In order to combat the country's chaotic economic situation and to bring down the inflation rate, the Thatcher government recently passed a new tax law in which all adults in Britain are obligated to pay at least 400 pounds sterling in taxes annually. [passage omitted]

Thatcher's improper policies aimed at overcoming the rampant economic crisis are not solely restricted to Europe. The recent discovery of illegal sale of pipings of a supergun as well as other military equipment by British firms to the Baghdad regime, which took place at the permission of Britain's Trade and Industries Department, was yet one more example of Mrs. Thatcher's incompetence in taking her country out of the prevailing crisis. Although her government has (?so far), in varous ways, endeavored to cover up this issue, it is obvious that at present the Iraqi market is a limited one, one of which the British companies need in order to export their products, since British products, because of their low quality, have lost competitiveness at global level.

Meanwhile Iraq being the world's second country in terms of oil reserves, has been one of the main advocates of western interests in the Middle East, especially after the victory of the Islamic revolution. Consequently it is quite evident that the Thatcher government is continuing with the (?intention of) supporting Baghdad in order to preserve the British market at home. But now economic issues and the need to resolve general constraints in Britain have been instrumental in shaping up the so called (?downfall) of Thatcher for the first time ever; and has forced her to make a retreat on her earlier decisions, which until this time were being defended staunchly by her. Also this is an indication that she is ready to consider the views of her opponents who constitute the majority of the British people. [passage omitted]

The recent arms scandal and retreat on the part of Thatcher on her first income policies are in fact expressions of the reality that her plans on the settlement of the country's crises have lost their effectiveness and this can lead to even further fall in her popularity and consequently act as a prelude to her defeat in the next general elections.

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Hizballah Figures

NC2804193790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Last night in Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khansari, deputy foreign minister for Arab affairs [title as received], met with the secretary general and the command council members of Lebanon's Hizballah. During the meeting, which was also attended by the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Syria, discussion centered on developments in the region, particularly in Lebanon and Palestine.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khansari also met with Dr. Fathi al-Shaqi, a leading figure of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

Khansari voiced the Islamic Republic's support for the intifadah of the Palestinian Muslim people. He referred to the firm and clear-cut opposition to the immigration of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and by President Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and he personally condemned this conspiracy.

For his part, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi [name as heard] noted the expansion of the Islamic intifadah in Palestine and referred to the conspiracies being concocted by its enemies against it. He added that nothing will stop this popular revolt.

PRC Public Health Minister Arrives in Tehran

NC0105063490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Chen Minzhang, the PRC minister for public health, arrived in Tehran at midnight last night at the head of a delegation. He was welcomed by Dr. Fazel, minister for health, treatment and medical education.

At Mehrabad Airport, the PRC public health minister said in an exclusive interview with our correspondent that he is visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran to reciprocate the Iranian health minister's visit to the PRC last year, and to acquaint himself with the health situation in our country. He said: Iran and the PRC face similar issues in the field of health, even though geographical conditions are different. The health ministries of the two countries are obliged to strive to raise the level of health in their respective countries.

He added: In this regard, we can avail ourselves of each other's experience. This will facilitate greater expansion of bilateral relations.

Commenting on the PRC delegation's visit, Dr. Fazel said:

[Begin recording] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. As you know, Mr. Chen and his accompanying high-level delegation are here at the official invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to inspect the country's health, treatment, and medical education system in the various fields. This visit is to reciprocate a trip to the PRC by a similar Iranian delegation.

The PRC has much experience in the various fields of health and in the medical field in general, especially since it adopted a special system of health education after the revolution. It is also a country with a population of remarkable size. In view of this, therefore, we think its experience will be of immense benefit to us.

Such exchanges will be especially advantageous for the two countries. Similarly, their inspection of our country's health networks will provide them with an overview of our system and, in all, I think the outcome of this visit will be mutually very useful. [end recording]

Soviet Muslims Hold 'Id Al-Fitr Celebrations

LD2704180690 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Ardabil, E. Azerbaijan Prov., April 27, IRNA—Azeri Muslims of the Soviet Union held 'Id al-Fitr prayers at various mosques early Friday [27 April] after a month of fasting, reported Baku radio. During prayers at Taze-Pir mosque of Baku, head of the Theologians' and Muslims' Affairs Department of Caucasia Sheykh ol-Eslam Pashazadeh invited Azeri Muslims to revive Islamic rituals in the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, 20 tons of dates donated by the Islamic republic Red Crescent Society was handed over to the department to be distributed among Muslims especially the relatives of those martyred during January disturbances in the region.

Also, radios stations of Uzbek and Tajik republics reported that 'Id al-Fitr prayers were held in the entire middle Asian regions of the Soviet Union. Both radios said the prayers were unprecedented during the past 50 years. The Tashkent Radio of Uzbek Republic reported that the crowd was so dense that the Tala Sheykh Mosque could not room all the worshippers.

Mofti and head of the Middle Asian Muslims' Department of the Soviet Union, Mohammad Sadeq Mohammad Yusuf addressing worshippers at Jame Mosque of Tashkent called on Muslims to fight against ignorance, superstition, drinking alcoholic beverages, theft and unrestrained life style. He also invited Muslims to peace, friendship, participation in charitable affairs and proper performance of religious duties.

Greet Iranians on 'Id al-Fitr

LD2804133190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Yesterday, on the occasion of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, around 1,500 inhabitants of the Soviet Nakhichevan assembled in (Sanambulaghi) border region, beside the border town of Pol Dasht, and congratulated Iranian Muslims living on the border on the great feat.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in the gathering which lasted for four hours and staged, unlike previous gatherings, without the presence of the Soviet security forces, Soviet Azerbaijan Muslims announced their readiness to obey the orders of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of world Muslims, and stressed Soviet Muslims' preparedness for any kind of self-sacrifice toward implementation of the holy ideals of Islam.

It is worth mentioning that the planned meeting of Muslims living on the borders in Iran and the Soviet Union, which was to take place on the occasion of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, was cancelled because of the unpreparedness of Soviet Azarbaijan officials.

Maku Governor, Nakhichevan Premier Meet

NC3004091990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Border travel between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union was discussed yesterday during a meeting in Maku between the governor of Maku and Mir Ismail Aliyev, chairman of the council of ministers of the Soviet Socialist Republic [as heard] of Nakhichevan, as well as officials and political-commercial delegations from both sides.

IRNA reports that during this meeting, it was decided to establish border travel between the two countries as of 22 May this year. After discussing the necessary conditions for joint border trade within the framework of commercial and cultural protocols, the two sides expressed their interest in establishing commercial relations between residents on both sides of the border and creating joint trading points along the border.

Among other topics discussed was that of declaring cities in west Azerbaijan and Nachichevan sister cities. Under this plan, intensive cultural exchanges will take place between the sister cities.

The report states that the construction of a bridge to link Takdagh in Iran and Nkromeh in the Soviet Union and the setting up of another travel point in Pol Dasht and opposite Shakhtakhty were also discussed.

At the end of this meeting, the Maku governor told an IRNA correspondent that the talks were fruitful and added: The Nakhichevan side has assured us that as of 22 May the people on both sides will be able to cross the border within the framework of border regulations. Commenting on border trade, he said: Currently fruit, dried fruit, and construction material can be being exported by Iran, while raw material for carpet weaving, aluminum, and thread can be exported by the other side.

Expressing satisfaction with his trip to Iran, Mr. Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan council of ministers, thanked the leaders of Iran and the Soviet Union for creating favorable conditions for bringing the two nations closer and called for the further expansion of these relations.

The report states that at the end of these talks, the Nakhichevan political-commercial delegation toured the bazaar and streets of Maku. The delegation was seen off by local officials and left Maku yesterday.

USSR-Iran Border in Maku To Open 22 May

LD3004091890 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azerbaijan Prov., April 30, IRNA—Across the border travel between Iran's West Azerbaijan Province and the Soviet republic of Nakhichevan will start as of May 22, it was announced in the provincial city of Maku Sunday [29 April]. The announcement was made in a meeting of Maku Governor Ghahvehchian and Nakhichevan Premier Ismail Aliyev who, heading an eco-political delegation, was in Maku on a day-long visit to discuss border trade and travel within the framework of economic and cultural protocols signed earlier between Moscow and Tehran.

It was also announced during the meeting that a bridge over the border Aras River connecting Takdagh of Iran to Nkromeh on the Soviet side be opened for travelers upon construction and another bridge be built over the river connecting the Iranian city of Pol Dasht with Soviet Shakhtakhty.

During the session, the two sides expressed desire to establish border trade points, details of which will be worked out in the forthcoming joint meeting due to be held in Nakhichevan on May 14 when a delegation from the West Azerbaijan Province will return the visit. The two sides also talked about declaring cities of the West Azerbaijan Province and Nakhichevan republic as 'brother-cities'.

Speaking to IRNA after the meeting, Ghahvehchian termed the talks as fruitful and added establishment of border trade will enable Iran to export fresh and dried fruit and construction materials to the Soviet Union and import aluminium, thread and raw materials for carpet weaving.

Aliev praised moves taken by Iranians and Soviets for working for closer ties and called for further strengthening of bilateral ties. He conveyed warm greetings of the Nakhichevan people and of the parliament deputies to Azerbaijani citizens.

The delegation toured Maku Bazar and streets and chatted with local people and left the city for Nakhichevan crossing over the Aras Dam.

Paper Comments on Soviet Third World Policy

LD3004094690 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—An English daily Monday [30 April] commented that recent developments in Eastern Europe "would not have been possible without Moscow's green light." In an editorial "TEHRAN TIMES" wrote that these developments made political observers believe for a while that Gorbachev would also want similar political changes to take place among "his Third World allies."

But on the contrary, the article noted, Gorbachev has shown little eagerness in relation to his Third World allies especially the Middle Eastern ones. "An obvious example of this is his continued support for the regime of Najibullah in Afghanistan," the daily added. It said that socio-political structures of these countries, from Gorbachev's view, "has no bearing on USSR's reform policies."

Meanwhile, TEHRAN TIMES noted, there are countries in the Western camp which are offering best examples of [words indistinct] democratic systems.

But, it stressed, the West has chosen not to show any practical encouragement for "pluralistic political changes lest such changes might prove detrimental to its own interests."

The article concluded by saying: "Soviet's national interests then, from Kremlin's view, necessitate that Moscow limit its concern over establishing democratic multiparty systems in allies like Syria and Libya to verbalization only."

Feda'iyen-e Khalq Rebroadcasts May Day Statement

LD2904190590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Compatriots. Workers and toilers. The Central Committee of Iran's Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization, majority wing, issued a statement addressed to workers for the occasion of 1 May, International Workers' Day. We broadcast the message for you in our program on Thursday 26 April. Rebroadcasting it now, we ask activists of the workers' movement and the vanguard Feda'iyan of workers' syndicalist struggles to record and [word indistinct] the message and to distribute it among workers before 1 May. With hopes for a good international workers day for our compatriots, we once again bring the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Central Committee statement to your attention:

The message of the Central Committee of Iran's Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization, majority wing, to Iran's workers and toilers on the occasion of 1 May, International Workers' Day:

Dear workers and toilers, we convey our sincere greetings for the approaching 1 May, International Workers' Day, to you who improve everyone's life with your hard work and suffering. We hope that these difficult days which affect our country's workers and toilers more than anyone else will pass as quickly as possible as a result of a united and steadfast (?struggle) and that happiness, prosperity, and freedom will come to all Iranians. [passage omitted international developments herald freedom and a better life for workers]

Events everywhere herald the news that the life of tyranny and oppression, terror and repression, torture and execution is on the wane in our world. The day is not far off when our (?sad) homeland, too, will embrance the spring of freedom. The source of that hope lies in all those cries of anger and protest which, throughout Iran and in the east, west, north, and south of Tehran, in the shadow of the [revolutionary] guards' weapons, call for an end to the oppressive regime.

Since last winter, following the heroic strike of thousands of workers at the Melli Shoe Industrial Complex, the people's justice-seeking cries have taken on new dimensions. Economic problems have become unendurable for the people. People can no longer tolerate the situation. Millions of unemployed workers see a dark and gloomy future before them. Salaries and wages and the people's real income decrease by the day; prices soar. With every passing day, the toilers' pantries become emptier and emptier and neither Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government nor his rivals are looking for solutions for the people's problems.

The country's economy, the parade ground for plundering merchants, is moving toward ruin. The continuation of this situation is intolerable for everyone. The recent months' demonstrations are the cries of people who have reached their limits and who do not want to endure the existing wretchedness. The regime, which is unable to tame the economic crisis, intensifies its repression, but the workers say, whatever happens, it cannot be worse than this.

The regime's leadership, which sees a darkening future before it, (?raises its swords). They have ordered the [Islamic Revolutionary Guards] Corps, the Basij [mobilization of the oppressed], and the [Revolutionary] Committee to be on their guard. The people's cries of protest have robbed the regime of peaceful sleep. The regime is unable to silence the cries of protest.

Struggling workers and toilers of Iran! The great Bahman [February] revolution showed than when you—the millions-strong mass of workers and toilers—arise, however oppressive and armed the regime is, it cannot stop your uprising. History will not forget the moment when the heroic oil workers took tyranny by the throat and brought it to the ground.

Now, too, protests must be held wherever and whenever the opportunity arises. Whenever we unite and act together, we can force the regime to retreat and surrender. With your strikes, you squeezed the throat of the Shah's regime. You, hand in hand with all the Iranian people, forced the Khomeyni regime to drink the cup of poison and accept peace. Today, with the power of unity and struggle, you can attain your just demands. Time is on the side of our people and against its enemies. The mullah's despotic regime has no future.

The regime's leadership, which hates workers' (?uprisings), has announced that it has somewhat increased the minimum wage. Although that is a victory in itself, nonetheless, the deceitful regime is not yet prepared to organize the wage system in such a way that the livelihood of toilers does not decline. Despite the struggles and demands of vast workers' groups, the grading of jobs remains incomplete in many places and workers' wages have not been amended. Despite all the pressure, they are still blocking the path of the employment law, a law which they have concocted themselves. They have not even allowed workers to have their own unions and syndicates.

In circumstances under which economic pressure makes the lives of workers more difficult by the day, the ruling

mullahs are still either engaged in endless disputes over rank, money and position, or, by spending large sums of money in Lebanon and Afghanistan and other places, engage in sabotage; or else they spend their time thinking about how to outdo each other in stealing and plundering the people's and the country's property and in killing and repressing strugglers.

Toward the attainment of their demands, Iranian workers have no other path before them other than united struggle against the regime's cruelties. Struggling for an increase in wages and its continual amendment in line with inflation, struggling for the establishment of free and independent syndicates and unions, struggling for the elimination of reactionary clauses from the draft of the employment law and its immediate approval [in the majlis] are at the head of workers' syndicalist demands.

Struggling workers! Both for the sake of political demands and for economic demands, (?everyone) must unite, regardless of their views. Factional disagreements and the ploys of the regime's agents must not create divisions among you. Links must be forged with workers in other units. News of the struggles of workers and masses must be brought to everyone's ears in any way possible. Assistance must be rushed to the families of workers who are sacked or arrested by way of revenge. And for all that, secret workers cells must become tahe lever and organilzer of workers' mass struggles.

Iranian workers and toilers! May it be that this wind of freedom which is blowing across the world also embraces our homeland sooner than predicted. May it be that these (?storms and uprisings) and the streams of scattered mass protests grow stronger throughout our nation and join one another. May they drive the regime back, force it to surrender and pave the way for the death and destruction of the velayat-e faqih regime. May it be that this year's May Day celebration should become a (?thorn) in the eye of the regime which is terrified of the (?renewed dawn) of mass protest. May you be victorious!

[Signed] The Central Committee of Iran's Feda'iyan-e Khalq organization, majority wing

[Dated] 22 April 1990

Tudeh Party Issues May Day Statement

LD2904223590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Here is the statement of the Central Committee of Iran's Tudeh Party on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the celebration of May:

Workers and toilers! The Central Committee of Iran's Tudeh Party conveys its greetings to you on the approach of the 100th anniversary of May Day, the day of solidarity between the workers and toilers of the world. [passage omitted]

Workers and toilers! We are going to celebrate the 100th anniversary of May Day in circumstances in which—in the conditions of deep socioeconomic crisis arising from the policies of the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult] regime—you are deprived of the most primitive individual and social rights and freedoms and are confronted by a mass of [word indistinct] problems in the working and living environments.

The absence of freedom of organized syndicalist and political struggle, the dearth of laws protecting the interests of toilers, such as a progressive employment and social security law, the low level of wages in conditions of soaring inflation and high prices, the absence of job security, unreasonable sackings and millions- strong unemployment, the unprecedented intensification of work and the rate of exploitation, the increasing rate of accidents arising from work and work-related illnesses, the tragic state of health, medicine, and training has confronted you with serious difficulties and dangers. Poverty, hunger, and homelessness are some of the cruel aspects of the harsh lives of many of our country's suffering deprived people. Of course, in such circumstance, the regime's incapacity to overcome the existing socioeconomic crisis and the continued rule by bayonets and repression act as two intensifying factors.

Workers and toilers! While the antidemocratic and antiworker nature of the regime intensifies ever more, freedom of syndicalist and political organizations and the participation of your real representative in the running of the country's economic affairs becomes more necessary than at any other time. If you do not impose a kind a democratic control of your own on (?your economic planning) and the running of the country's production and service units through your real representatives, you will continue to witness, among other things: increasing social inequality, the unjust distribution of wealth and national revenue to the advantage of the plundering minority, the continued trend of unemployment, and many other negative things.

Progressive workers and syndacalist activists! The 100th anniversary of May Day is being held in circumstances in which workers and toilers throughout the world, relying on their own experiences, are paving the way for the intensification of their unionist-syndacalist struggles. It is appropriate, in the repressive conditions prevalent in our country, to understand work-related views, demands, and issues and realistically assess long and short-term aims, and to (?extend) the struggle toward (?improving) the independent syndicalist movement of toilers through the formation of secret syndacalist and union leadership cells. Toward that end, it is possible and it is imperative to take effective steps with reliance on the [word indistinct] and rich experiences of the nearly 80-year-old struggle of Iranian workers and toilers.

Workers and toilers! (?Overthrowing) the self-centered velayat-e faqih regime and the establishment of a democratic system based on the rule of law is the prime condition for the provision of food and housing, education and health, and for syndacalist and political rights. Extend your struggles in various forms and by various

means toward establishing democratic rule in society. It is only in conditions of democracy that you can organize and advance your struggle in an organized way for the attainment of your rightful demands.

Auspicious be the 100th anniversay of May Day, the day of solidarity between the workers of the world! Long live the struggling working class of Iran! Long live the front of freedom and peace! Down with the velayat-e faqih regime.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Iran's Tudeh Party;

[Dated] 28 April 1990

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Issues May Day Message

LD0105102390 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a message issued Monday [30 April] on the occasion of the International May Day reiterated the need to improve the welfare of the workers and called on workers to strive harder. He termed negligence and wastage of work force in an era of worldwide Islamic uprising as an "unforgivable sin."

The president said in the message that work force and innovation are the bases of economic independence and play determining roles in the industrial and political structure of the country. He urged the country's authorities to take the necessary steps to upgrade technical knowledge and skill of the workers in various industrial fields and provide them with required facilities.

At the same time, he called on the country's workers to make utmost efforts to fully acquire technical training and increase production with the aim to reach full economic self-sufficiency in a way that suits the sacred Islamic system.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani further underlined in the message that one of the Islamic Republic's objectives from the very beginning was to entrust the country's industry to faithful and trained workers to whom the revolution belongs and also to give them the shares in factories' profits.

The message congratulated all the devout workers on the occasion.

Commentary on FBI's 'Illegal' Entry to IRNA

NC3004142990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Apr 90 p 9

[Political commentary: "Expectations From the United Nations"]

[Text] Two officials from the U.S. internal security organization, the FBI, entered the IRNA office in New York without cause, stating that their purpose was to check the office and its members.

Even though the official U.S. stance has not been announced regarding this illegal measure, it remains an extremely ugly action, in which the most rudimentary international norms have been trampled upon and which will not be tolerated, especially since the above officials openly admitted that they have the IRNA staff under surveillance.

This illegal presence has not only violated the sanctity of the United Nations, but also of the most basic principles of democracy. Is it not a fact that the United Nations is an international organization, and all member countries are in contact with the United Nations, independent of the U.S. Federal Government? How is it that the FBI authorized itself to act beyond the parameters of its obligations, to interfere with and encroach upon UN precincts, to violate the security of individuals, and to embark on adventurism? The United Nations should answer these questions.

The White House has assumed that it should supervise everything even though this Islamic Iran has rejected this assumption. Eleven years have passed since the United States last shuffled the ministers and its representatives in Iran. Today, not only in Iran, but all over world, conditions have changed. This is a reality which the United States will have to acknowledge.

Since the day the Americans invited the United Nations to establish its headquarters in New York, they pledged not to interfere in the organization needlessly. However, we see that the United States has forgotten its pledge and the FBI officials have initiated an investigation against a staff member of a news agency.

Perhaps the FBI officials have mistaken IRNA for the U.S. news and press agencies, since the U.S. espionage and intelligence organizations keep their country's mass media under surveillance in miscellaneous ways.

The fact is that the U.S. mass communications system implements the White House policies and all its espionage and intelligence organizations policies. Despite all such actions, the Americans ceaselessly harp about slogans of freedom and democracy. Now, if the Islamic Republic of Iran had treated American correspondents similarly, the whole world would have been deafened by an uproar that in Iran foreign correspondents' beliefs are curtailed and there is no freedom and democracy in Iran.

This is not a simple matter, and the Islamic Republic of Iran should not ignore this illegal act. The United Nations should also conduct the necessary inquiry into the matter and announce its conclusion. Naturally, if such an action is repeated, the real nature of the United Nations will be questioned extensively.

It is expected that the United Nations will adopt a decisive stance about such overt violations to prove that it is not under the influence of the U.S. Administration and that it will not permit such unpleasant incidents to recur.

Six-Day Joint Exercises Commence in Shiraz

LD2904112390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Joint exercises by model military units from a number of regions started in Darangun area, in Shiraz, this morning.

IRNA reports: The engineering unit of the 55th Airborne Brigade and units from Shiraz armored and infantry centers, Tehran communications, Esfahan artillery and Borujerd engineering took part in the exercises, which include nocturnal and daytime offensive and defensive operations.

The exercises will last for six days.

Four 'Narcotics Smugglers' Executed 28 Apr

LD2904105190 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Province, April 29, IRNA—Four narcotics smugglers were sentenced to death by the Islamic revolution's court of Zahedan, it was announced Sunday [29 April]. They were found guilty of possession of more than 24 kg of narcotics, mainly heroin.

The verdicts were carried out publicly Saturday [28 April].

Nepal & Bhutan

Police Reportedly Open Fire at Resort, Kill Two

OW3004120990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 30 KYODO—Police opened fire on a crowd, killing two persons and injuring another at the Nepalese resort town of Pokhara Monday morning [30 April], reports reaching here said.

Khem Bahadur Pahadi, who sustained injuries during the police action, is being treated at a local hospital. His condition is reported to be serious.

According to the official account, police had earlier fired warning shots in the air as a mob was pelting the living quarters of the chief district officer with bricks. The crowd, however, grew more aggressive and the police reportedly opened fire in self-defence.

Eyewitness reached over telephone from here, however, said a security guard suddenly opened fire at the crowd.

At around 9:45 p.m. Sunday, the Kaski District office as well as the administrative building at Pokhara, about 110 kilometers west of the capital, were set on fire. Both buildings were completely destroyed by the fire, along with official documents and papers.

Crowds of local inhabitants had gathered since early Monday in front of the residence of the chief district officer demanding to know how the office buildings caught fire. The locals suspected the fire was set to destroy incriminating documents and that the district officer had a hand in it.

Most of the local markets were closed and people organized processions in various parts of the resort town to protest the killings Monday afternoon, reports said.

According to a spokesman of the Nepali Congress Party, two persons were killed early Monday and 18 others injured when police opened fire at a crowd in Pokhara, west Nepal.

The Army was called out to take control of the area in the afternoon and a curfew is expected to be imposed in the area Monday night.

Minister of Home Affairs and Communications Yog Prasad Upadhyaya has left the capital for Pokhara to investigate the situation, the spokesman added.

Minister Flies to Pokhara

BK3004163690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1627 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 30 (AFP)—The home minister rushed Monday [30 April] to a town in central Nepal to personally investigate an army shooting earlier in the day that left at least two people dead, an official said. A Home Ministry spokesman here said one person was also seriously injured when troops opened fire to disperse demonstrators in Pokhara, 225 kilometres west of here. A source in the Nepali Congress, the largest faction in the interim coalition government, said that 18 people were injured. This could not be confirmed.

The incident occurred during a march to protest an arson attack against the headquarters of the Pokhara district panchayat, or assembly, the spokesman said, adding that the fire was set by hired vandals.

Home and Communications Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyaya flew from here to Pokhara aboard a special helicopter to make an on-the-spot inquiry into the incident, the spokesman said.

Three men suspected of setting the fire were caught by protestors and handed over to the army, the Nepali Congress source said, adding that altogether 13 people were arrested.

He said the arrested included members of Mandale, an underground right-wing group. Protestors claimed they were hired by local officials to destroy possibly incriminating evidence in the building. Mandale has been linked to officials in the partyless panchayat system, which was disbanded last week at the local level after 30 years in place.

The detained men were not turned into the police, who have been accused since a ban on political parties was lifted earlier this month of supporting Mandale in a bid to destabilize the new government.

The protestors were demanding strong action against the arsonists and the president of the disbanded district panchayat, Ambar Bahadur Karki, and Pokhara Mayor Surya Bahadur, residents contacted by phone said.

The Nepali Congress source said both local leaders had taken refuge inside army barracks to avoid the angry protestors, who demanded that the Pokhara chief district officer, or magistrate, apprehend the two.

'Extreme-Left' Group Hands Demands to Bhattarai

BK0105083090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 1 (AFP)—A delegation of the extreme-left United National Peoples' Movement (UNPM) used the occasion of May Day to meet with Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and hand him a 10-point list of demands.

They urged Mr. Bhattarai to call an all-party political conference and proposed that a constituent assembly be elected to draft a new constitution assuring democracy and full-fledged political rights, a government source said. The delegation also asked for the withdrawal of pending cases against political prisoners and a general amnesty for politicians, including the release of Ram Raja Prasad Singh, on death row for a string of bombings here.

The four-member UNPM group and Mr. Bhattarai also discussed the political situation since the reintroduction of party pluralism, the source said.

The UNPM joins six communist factions and is viewed as the most extreme opponent of Nepal's monarchical system. It is highly critical of what it sees as Indian expansionism, U.S. imperialism, Soviet hegemonism and modern Chinese revisionism.

The delegation included Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai, Bachapati Devkota, Singhu Nath Pyakuryal and Krishna Das Shrestha, representing four splinter groups of the extreme-left communist party campaigning for republican government.

Mr. Bhattarai said he was "positively inclined" toward their demands, and would give "sympathetic consideration" to the requests for lifting charges against political prisoners and for the granting of a general amnesty for politicians, the source said. The UNPM wants the amnesty to include Mr. Singh, who with three accomplices was sentenced to death by the Supreme Court for a series of bombings across Nepal in June 1985 that killed eight persons and wounded 28.

But Mr. Bhattarai said that his coalition government differed on the question of elections for a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. The UNPM delegation said it might launch a movement to achieve this demand and Mr. Bhattarai said the government would permit such a move if it was "peaceful and non-violent," the source said.

Pakistan

Afghan Refugees Attack U.S. Relief Agency 26 Apr

BK2904113690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 29 Apr 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 29 (AFP)—A mob of Afghan refugees, angry that women were being taught "immoral" behaviour, stormed a U.S. relief agency, ransacked its welfare project and set a factory on fire, its chief said Sunday [29 April]. Mr. Thor Armstrong, head of the non-governmental Shelter Now International (SNI), said 5,000 to 6,000 people raided SNI Thursday, plundering a mobile workshop and badly destroying another unit that manufactured building materials for refugee homes.

The agency runs a centre for war-displaced widows, and Afghan males did not want women to deal with outsiders even if it was for relief purposes, Mr. Armstrong said. He said they complained to the centre about "providing soap, allowing women to swing (on swings in a playground), offering birth control pills and distributing the New Testament."

Refugee sources at the Nasir Bagh border camp said strangers offering soap to Afghan women for a bath is considered "highly immoral" in Afghan society. They said camp dwellers became infuriated following an inflammatory speech by a religious leader before morning prayers on the Muslim festival 'Id al-Fitr marking the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting. In his sermon, he reportedly lashed out at the organisation's alleged "invasion of our religious institutions, beliefs and culture by the foreigners" working in the centre.

"Not a single issue they raised was true or would justify the hostile actions against the programme," Mr. Armstrong countered.

Tension had been simmering since February. After a joint meeting with Afghan elders and the commissioner for Afghan refugees, the five-month-old centre was closed temporarily until after Ramadan, he said. But the attack took place the day before it could reopen, he said.

Police used tear gas to disperse the unruly mob but 19 vehicles were stolen or destroyed in the attack, which was believed to be the first of this magnitude in the 11-year history of the refugees in Pakistan. Losses totaled more than 20 million rupees (930,000 U.S. dollars), while the total replacement cost was estimated to be about 1.4 million dollars, Mr. Armstrong said.

SNI has been operating in this Pakistani city bordering Afghanistan since 1982, providing food and shelter aid to some of the three million Afghans displaced in the 11-year old Afghan conflict.

Resistance sources said some 50 people had been arrested in various raids following the incident. They said refugees had complained to authorities that the camp was being used as a missionary centre.

"They were preaching Christianity and distributing literature including Pushtu and Farsi versions of Injeel (the New Testament) free of cost," the sources said.

The centre for widows was "ruining the Afghan culture" by showing videos allegedly depicting how men and women should live, they said. A playground for the women, equipped with swings and slides, was promoting "obscenity," they said. Another source claimed the mob seized at least two "vulgar" video cassettes and "obscene" literature.

"Our losses are indeed great in financial terms," Mr. Armstrong said. "Much greater, however, is the potential loss to the Afghans."

The attack follows reports of Washington distancing itself from the Afghan situation.

"The actions of a few misinformed and misguided people, if unchallenged, have the potential to further erode the already deteriorating international interest and donor support of refugee aid programmes," Mr. Armstrong warned.

Yaqub Khan Returns, Notes Support for Kashmiris

BK0105114390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1100 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan's stand on the long unresolved Kashmir issue has gradually been appreciated by the international community. The issue has again come out into the forefront as a result of the massive uprising by the people of occupied Kashmir against the Indian authorities.

The foreign minister made his comments to newsmen upon his arrival in Islamabad today from New York, where he attended the UN General Assembly special session on international economic cooperation and the special ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries. He said it has now been established beyond doubt that the UN Security Council resolution on the Kashmir issue has not faded out. Its legal validity is still continuing.

DAWN Urges UN Role in Dispute Over Kashmir

BK2704092690 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Apr 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Indian Tirades and Pakistan's Responsibility"]

[Text] Even as international concern begins to mount over the situation in held Kashmir, and the possibility of this erupting into a full-scale conflict between India and Pakistan comes in for repeated mention, India continues to blame Pakistan for its troubles. Mr V.P. Singh especially is becoming rather adept at this. On Wednesday he returned to the charge, saying in New Delhi that Pakistan was supporting a Muslim insurgency in Kashmir and that India had the ability to face any "challenges". The same day an Indian foreign ministry spokesman spoke of Pakistan fanning "secessionist agitation" in Kashmir. These accusations are meant only to mislead world opinion. Even if Pakistan had wanted to, it could not have created the conditions that now obtain in held Kashmir. The thirst for freedom cannot be exported. Nor can people be persuaded by outsiders to lay down their lives as Kashmiris have done in their hundreds since the uprising began in the Valley in January last. India knows this too but it is trying to mislead international opinion. It is not likely to succeed, however, because more and more countries are coming slowly to the realisation that what is taking place in held Kashmir is a popular uprising with deep roots among the Kashmiri masses. The recent tell-tale expulsion of foreign newsmen from Srinagar was intended to suppress evidence from sources which could not be accused of partisanship. There is need for the international community to speak out louder about the sufferings of the Kashmiri people and the brutal tactics being employed by the Indian security forces and army regulars to crush their agitation. Amnesty International has made its concern known to the Indian Government. But its voice needs to be reinforced by that of others. Silence on this score can only encourage India to raise the level of repression. It must be prevented from doing so.

There is word, meanwhile, that the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India are likely to meet in New York in the next few days when a special session of the UN General Assembly convenes. That could prove a useful occasion to try to defuse some of the tensions that have lately arisen between the two countries. Pakistan does not desire war. India can be told that once again. But it should also be told that Pakistan cannot keep quiet about the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It is honour bound to support them. The UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, is also expected to meet both the Foreign Ministers when they are in New York, possibly to judge what role the United nations could play at this juncture. If nothing else, Mr Perez de Cuellar can appoint a special representative of his on Kashmir, just as he has one on Afghanistan. That would be a first step in bringing the United Nations back into the Kashmir dispute. It would not be a bad idea for the Foreign Office to see that this is done. Other steps can later follow. Kashmir has become too hot an issue to be kept on the sidelines of international diplomacy any longer.

But for the right climate to be created before the Kashmir issue can usefully be taken to the United nations, the Organisation of Islamic Countries [OIC] must throw its weight behind Pakistan's efforts to arouse international opinion. In this context, it would seem that Prime Minister Bhutto has had useful discussions with the Saudi monarch, King Fahd, when she visited Saudi Arabia to perform Umra [minor pilgrimage]. Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed its support for Pakistan and both leaders are said to have considered measures the OIC could take for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute. Saudi Arabia's active interest in the matter could prove useful to Pakistan, and to the people of Kashmir, when the OIC Foreign Ministers gather in Cairo in June. India is mounting a well orchestrated campaign to confuse the issue. This must be duly taken note of.